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People Reportedly 'Shot Dead' at Greek Border

AU2607095790 Frankfurt/Main FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU in German 26 Jul 90 p 2

["KNA" report: "Shots at Albanian Border"]

[Text] Zagreb, 25 July—Shots are being fired on the border between Albania and Greece at people who are trying to flee Albania. According to a report by "Radio Croatia—studio Zagreb," a young Albanian who tried to escape to Greece was shot dead by a border guard on 15 July. The radio station refers to a letter sent by a Greek Orthodox metropolitan to Greek Prime Minister Mitsotakis. According to the letter, the Albanian was shot in front of Greek shepherds. Eyewitnesses reported that several people were recently shot dead at the border, some of them on Greek soil.

No Application for CSCE Membership Yet

AU2607094090 Vienna DIE PRESSE in German 26 Jul 90 p 4

[Maren Koester-Hetzendorf report: "Irreversible Reforms"]

[Text] Vienna—"The reform process in Albania is irreversible," stated Petrit Bushati, in an interview with DIE PRESSE. Mr. Bushati is head of the Albanian observer delegation participating in the Vienna talks, which will prepare for the CSCE summit in Paris. "However, the country in the Balkans will require some time to achieve the CSCE standard. After all, the CSCE process has been under way for 15 years. Albania must now catch up with the developments that have taken place during this period."

The senior Albanian diplomat, who represents his country as an ambassador in the Scandinavian countries, cited this as Albania's reason for not applying for full membership in the CSCE. However, observers presume that the effects of international reactions to the recent mass escape of Albanians and the resulting tough measures by the security forces against the demonstrators might also be a reason for Albania's reservation. According to unconfirmed reports, the situation in the country has not yet calmed down. Protests against the leadership have allegedly occurred again in several towns. Bushati explained why his country's interests are focusing on the observer status at the CSCE meeting for the time being. Only in April has Albania decided to participate in the European process of integration. In this way he hinted that this is a great leap forward for a country that was isolated for decades. The ambassador stressed that maintenance of national independence will continue to be the guideline for his country's policy.

Bushati was confident that Albania will be granted observer status at the Paris summit. Tirana was also granted this status at the CSCE human rights meeting in Copenhagen in June and at the preparatory talks in Vienna.

Albania has meanwhile tackled the realization of the reform proposals, Bushati pointed out and a new electoral law is under preparation. Parliament will then consist of people "who represent the interests of their groups or parties." However, Bushati does not believe that the Communist Party will lose its power. Political life is not as amorphous as many may think. A total of 40 percent of the parliamentary delegates are not affiliated with political parties, he claimed.

Presidential Candidates Address National Assembly

AU2507134790 Sofia BTA in English 1210 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Sofia, 25 Jul (BTA)—Chavdar Kyuranov (BSP [Bulgarian Socialist Party] candidate), Peter Dertliev (SDS [Union of Democratic Forces] candidate) and Viktor Vulkov (BZNS [Bulgarian National Agrarian Union] candidate) answered questions and stated their views about the president's institution for the better part of two hours in front of the grand national assembly. The three candidates for the presidential position tried to win votes from the part of their opponents. The three of them presented themselves as democrats. They spoke as people who will stand for their beliefs but would remain above party interests to the interest of state ones. The three of them showed eloquence as well as readiness for a compromise and reaching of consensus between the different political forces. The three of them stated their readiness to work for this country's unity.

While the candidates nominated by the BSP, the SDS and the BZNS spoke and sometimes got the applauses of their opponents the M.P.'s [members of parliament] of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms (MRF) did now show their preferences.

The president should be elected by a majority of two-thirds in parliament. The BSP has 211 votes, the SDS 144, the MRF 23 and the BZNS 16. The group of the BZNS and the BZNS "Nikola Petkov" (from the SDS) agreed to cooperate with one another. The remaining 6 votes belong to other organizations and to independent M.P.'s

It was agreed that the one-month period, for which the procedure for president election is considered open, has already been running since July 10. That means that August 10 is the deadline for president election. If that does not take place new parliamentary elections are to be held.

The three speakers were the only candidates for president, but parliament resolved that the nominations may be raised by M.P.'s and parliamentary groups only.

The candidates for president did not show to be very optimistic before BTA reporters. Prof. Chavdar Kyuranov repeated his words, stated from the rostrum: I can count to 267 (two-thirds from the votes). Viktor Vulkov smilingly predicted that the most worthy will win. Dr. Peter Dertliev simply said that no president will be elected in the first round. "In spite of that, however, no matter what happens, I will have success," he added without specifying what he meant by it.

The general opinion of parliament is that all three candidates coped well with the questions, though some of them were catchy ones. Prof. Chavdar Kyuranov had to explain how did he get in the BSP from the SDS. After his being expelled from the BSP for his membership in the Club for Protection of Openness and Restructuring, (?he) was in the SDS leadership as a member of this [word indistinct] but under the condition that the SDS will cooperate with radicals in the BSP." He left the opposition as "the influence of the right forces in the SDS increased then," as he said himself. He pleads for a coalition government, in the name of a civil peace, without rejecting the ruling party responsibility. Prof. Kyuranov said that he has never worked in Vulko Chervenkov and Todor Zhivkov's teams.

The leader of the Social Democratic Party Peter Dertliev first words were an appeal for tolerance. There were many moments in the statement of this "politician by profession" which, in the secret vote may win the socialists preferences. At the same time he did not hesitate to protect the students' strike, which was not approved by a large part of the ruling party members. To Dr. Dertliev, the gravest issue for Bulgaria is the national issue: half a million bulgarians are living outside the country. "I would like that my cousins in Skopje and Veles would be able to say freely that they are Bulgarians," he said. The ethnic groups should have equal rights and obligations, the ethnic variety is fortunate for Bulgaria, is his opinion.

Viktor Vulkov broached on foreign policy. It should be a policy of a sovereign country, which respects everybody, but has faith in itself, he stressed.

Most of the M.P.'s think that the president will not be elected at the first voting. The names of other possible candidates have begun to be heard. The personal opinion of Dragomir Draganov from the BSP is that the head of state should not be "party-coloured." He would himself propose for this position Metropolitan Pankratii, "as the church has always played a welding role." The BSP parliamentary group will wait for the second voting and then will think for a new nomination.

According to the SDS leadership, the opposition will not look for a candidate outside its ranks. Some people are of the opinion that after Dr. Peter Dertliev it will become necessary to seek another nominee.

The MRF restrains to propose its own representative. It leaves that to the more numerous political forces.

The BZNS will insist for its candidate.

'Prevailing Opinion': President To Be From SDS

AU2507191290 Sofia BTA in English 1744 GMT 25 Jul 90

["Will the President Come From the opposition?"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 25 Jul (BTA)—The president will probably come from the parliamentary opposition, according to a prevailing opinion among the M.P.'s in the lobbies of the Grand National Assembly. If this really happens, the vice president will belong to the ruling Socialist Party [BSP]. For the time being, the opposition Union of Democratic Forces (SDS) upholds the nomination of Dr. Petur Dertliev, but it may have to nominate Dr. Petur Beron as well.

The BSP and the SDS are holding consultations. The ruling party tried to link the settlement of the constitutional crisis with the formation of a coalition government. M.P.'s representing different SDS-affiliated parties and organisations were adamant: The opposition sees no room for bargaining. The SDS believes that now there are no conditions for a coalition government, Mr. Dimitur Ludzhev of the SDS, a participant in the consultations, told the BTA. In his view an SDS president would guarantee the irreversibility of the democratic process. The SDS must win the presidency if the BSP really favours the separation of powers.

Mr. Dimitur Yonchev of the BSP said that their condition is that the future president should be more "centrist-oriented." He did not rule out the possibility of an SDS president, provided the opposition comes up with suitable nominee. Mr. Yonchev finds that yesterday's consultations were not useless and that a mutually acceptable solution will probably be arrived at.

An M.P. for the Movement for Rights and Freedoms said that, characteristically, the participants in the consultations sought a way out of the polarization which manifested itself in the vote. (Both rounds of voting yesterday produced almost identical results, with the BSP and the SDS candidates collected almost as many votes as there are M.P.'s in their respective parliamentary factions.)

"There is some logic in the SDS demand that the president should belong to the opposition," Mr. Yuliy Bakhnev said. He asserted that the M.P.'s of the Movement for Rights and Freedoms voted with their conscience and that the results do not show that they had supported the BSP candidate.

The vote for Dr. Dertliev, the Social Democrat leader, can be viewed as a litmus test for the genuine democratization of the BSP, a test which it failed, opposition M.P.'s said today. Some of them believe that the Socialists (until recently Communists) fear that Dr. Dertliev might "hijack" to his party quite a few of the BSP M.P.'s. His nomination is obviously resented by some members of the SDS-affiliated Nikola Petkov Bulgarian Agrarian Party, who preferred voting for Mr. Viktor Vulkov, the candidate of the Bulgarian Agrarian Party (BZNS). In this connection the SDS acknowledges that there is some rivalry between the Agrarians and Social Democrats, but this merely proves that the accusations of "new totalitarianism," recently levelled against the SDS, are groundless.

Parliament finds it difficult to choose a president, but some believe that this can be achieved before the end of this month.

Parliamentary Declaration on TU Memorandum Read

AU2507162190 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1445 GMT 25 Jul 90

["Declaration" of the Grand National Assembly in response to the memorandum of the Independent Trade Unions Confederation and the Declaration of the Podkrepa Trade Union Federation, read by deputy Vladimir Sotirov at the Grand National Assembly session in Sofia—live]

[Text] The Grand National Assembly carefully examined the memorandum of the Independent Trade Unions Confederation Executive Commmittee and the declaration of the Podkrepa Independent Trade Union Labor Federation, and expresses its great understanding for the requests expressed in the two documents.

The National Assembly deputies share the concern contained in the the two documents about the deteriorating economic and political crisis in the country. The Grand National Assembly considers the demands expressed in the memorandum and declaration as justified and will devote all its efforts to their prompt satisfaction.

The National Assembly agrees that a president should be elected within the period of time prescribed by the Constitution and that a new government should be formed without delay.

The economic reforms and the successful implementation of anti-crisis measures should be one of the government's first and most urgent tasks. Such measures should be announced to the people in advance, in a spirit of sincerity and with a great sense of responsibility, and should be subject to permanent parliamentary control.

The presently acting government is not relieved of its obligations and is responsible for them as long as a new government has not been formed. However, the Grand National Assembly is only responsible for legislative activities and for control over the executive power. Along with consultations for the establishment of a new government, the Grand National Assembly intends to pursue its work related to the aforementioned requests within the parliamentary commissions.

The Grand National Assembly also pays attention to the question of responsibility for the crisis. In implementing Item No. 15 of our agenda we shall contribute to the legislative solution of the country's socioeconomic problems.

The Grand National Assembly calls on the Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Unions Confederation in Bulgaria, on the Podkrepa Labor Federation, and on all trade union organizations and their members, to manifest their political wisdom and their lofty civic sense of responsibility in connection with their protest actions. We understand the citizens' requests, but we express our conviction that the ultimatums related to such requests can only protract their solution.

The insistence on an immediate answer shows a lack of respect for the constitutional order related to the work of the Grand National Assembly. We are convinced that the contacts conform with the legal norms between the trade unions and the Grand National Assembly and that these contacts will play a considerable role in solving the country's socioeconomic problems. 25 July 1990.

Demands Deemed 'Justified'

AU2507181790 Sofia BTA in English 1726 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Sofia, 25 Jul (BTA)—Although with a delay of two days, today the Grand National Assembly responded with a declaration to the demands stated in the memorandum of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria which was backed up by the Podkrepa Labour Federation.

The trade unions insist on efficient parliamentary work, on electing the new president and forming the new government without any delay, on the immediate implementation of an economic reform, on urgently indexing wages. The time limit set in the memorandum expired on July 23. As the M.P.'s did not reply to it, the trade unions went on warning and token strikes and carried out protest drives mainly in the big cities.

According to the trade unions, almost one million Bulgarians have signed the memorandum.

Last night the Bulgarian Television announced that Premier Andrey Lukanov also supported the memorandum.

After nearly three-hour-long debates, the national representatives adopted a declaration in which the demands made by the trade unions are defined as justified. "The grand national assembly will exert every possible effort to meet the demands within the time limit prescribed by the Constitution," it is said in the declaration.

The national representatives call upon the two trade unions and their members to show "political wisdom and civic responsibility in their protest drives". It is pointed out that ultimatums could only delay the settlement of the problems.

TU Response to Assembly Decree

AU2507203990 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

["Decision of the Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Unions Confederation in Bulgaria"; read by unidentified announcer—live or recorded]

[Text] The Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Unions Confederation in Bulgaria carefully examined the declaration of the Grand National Assembly responding to the trade union memorandum. The declaration provides a positive, but not specific answer to the requests set forth in our memorandum.

Expressing its restrained satisfaction with the Grand National Assembly declaration, the Executive Committee decided to abstain from further protest and symbolic actions for the time being.

We recommend that the National Strike Committee remain in a state of strike readiness and we express gratitude to the regional strike committees for their prompt, effective, and excellently organized work on the local scale, up to this moment.

At the same time, the Executive Committee of the Confederation in expressing its respect for the first legally elected National Assembly in our most recent history, declares its resolve most carefully to observe the further work of the Assembly and the implementation of the commitments assumed by parliament.

Considering the current critical situation in our country, we regard the slow, rhetorical, and narrow-minded debates, based on party interests, related to the discussion and solution of crucial and urgent socioeconomic problems as unacceptable.

We reject the statement that the trade union protest actions aimed at exerting constructive pressure upon the work of the Grand National Assembly do not conform with the law.

We call on National Assembly deputies from all political forces to show more businesslike spirit and more constructive spirit, more sense of responsibility for the nation's fate, and urge them to demonstrate with their deeds that the declaration of the Grand National Assembly in response to our memorandum is not merely a formal reply to the trade unions' requests.

The Executive Committee states that the Confederation reserves for itself the right to take further expedient action according to the country's situation and in conformity with the wishes of its members.

Signed: The Executive Committee of the Independent Trade Union Confederation in Bulgaria.

Lukanov Meets Podkrepa TU, Employers' Leaders

AU2507210290 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Andrey Lukanov, chairman of the Council of Ministers, met leaders and experts of the Podkrepa Labor Federation and of the Employers' Union.

Opinions on the progress of economic reform were exchanged during the meeting.

Special attention was devoted to the discussion of a draft on the scope, extent, and method of compensating citizens' incomes in connection with the price increase of consumer goods and services.

The talks are expected to continue in the near future with the purpose of creating a mechanism for the protection of citizens' interests during the transition to market economy. Special attention will be given to citizens with lower incomes.

Summary of Current Strikes, Protest Actions

AU2507121290

[Editorial Report] Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian at 0900 GMT on 24 July in its midday newscast carries a seven-minute round up of radio correspondent reports "on the situation in certain regions of the country."

In Razgrad, according to the report, "the spokesman of the strike committee told our radio correspondent that the effective strikes have already been called off in the municipality."

In Silistra Municipality, "sit-ins continue in seven labor collectives," and "the staff of the Bulgarian National Bank is holding a token strike." In addition, "all food manufacturers have stopped food deliveries to Sofia."

In the municipalities of Turgovishte, Popovo, Omurtag, and others, "so far the situation still remains calm," which, according to the report, is a result of the efforts made by all political forces to maintain calm, as well as "the tolerance shown by all religious and ethnic communities."

In Lovech, states the report, the majority of the local trade union organizations "fully support the memorandum of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria," and "strike committees have been set up everywhere."

In Blagoevgrad, it is stated, "the trade union organizations of 30 labor collectives have started protest actions in support of the Trade Union Confederation's memorandum." Signatures are being collected for a declaration in support of the memorandum which is to be sent to the Grand National Assembly.

In Veliko Turnovo this morning, it is reported that "a group of members of the regional organization of Podkrepa Independent Labor Federation occupied the entrance hall of the municipal trade union offices of the Confederation of Independent Trade Unions in Bulgaria," demanding that the municipal People's Council allocates suitable premises for their trade union work.

In Razgrad Oblast, it is reported that a Dulovo Municipal Committee for Defense of National Interests has voiced support for the strike actions in Razgrad, Aytos, and other towns, and issued a call for an effective strike. In Ruse, the regional leadership of the Bulgarian National Radical Party has sent a telegram to the Grand National Assembly, warning that "if the demands of the strikers in Kurdzhali, Razgrad, Aytos, Khaskovo, and Shumen are not satisfied," they will call on the Ruse public for effective actions to support them.

The report then describes other declarations received by Bulgarian Radio. The Burgas district operating Bureau of the Rights and Freedoms Movement "calls on its members, sympathizers, and the public at large not to yield to the provocations on the part of the Nationwide Committee for Defense of National Interests and the Fatherland Party of Labor, and not to undertake actions which might breach public order and calm." An appeal is made for "party spirit, tolerance, and socially useful labor."

Finally, the report states that in Sofia's Chervena Zvezda Municipality, "a committee which has been formed for parliamentary democracy and civil peace condemns as illegal and antidemocratic" the attempts to interfere in the proceedings of parliament being made in the streets and squares of Sofia.

Further on Local Strikes, Rallies

AU2507203090 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The workers of the Khristo Botev cotton-textile enterprise in Varna—part of the Rila Company—organized a half-hour warning strike. Symbolic protest actions took place in various other Varna enterprises.

In Pazardzhik, the memorandum of the Independent Trade Unions Confederation is already supported by signatures of thousands of workers and employees. Various actions are taking place, such as short rallies, symbolic strikes, and even temporary interruptions of production which are to serve as a warning.

In the town of Gotse Delchev the local section of the Podkrepa Labor Federation in the Mikhayl Antonov Plant, which is the largest industrial enterprise in the town, organized a strike yesterday expressing protest against the expected dismissals of workers.

Several hundred people joined the strike. According to the local Podkrepa Trade Union section at the Mirolyub Ikonomov Plant, many colleagues are in solidarity with the workers on strike.

The strikers insist on the resignation of the plant's general manager and his deputy, who is in charge of economic affairs.

According to the participants in the protest actions, the plant's managers have failed to take all necessary measures to avoid the forthcoming dismissals.

Parliament Addresses Problems of Ethnic Conflict

AU2507194690 Sofia BTA in English 1906 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Sofia, 25 Jul (BTA)—The tension in the towns of Kurdzhali, Aytos and Razgrad has eased, the leader of the Fatherland Labor Party, Mr Dimitur Arnaudov, stated today in the Bulgarian parliament.

Later on a National representative of the Movement For Rights and Freedoms (MRF) confirmed this statement.

The unrest in these regions was provoked by the nationalistic parties and movements which are discontented with the presence of "Turks in the Bulgarian parliament" and which state that the MRF is an illegal organization. Plants and state institutions were occupied, trains were stopped, there were token and effective strikes.

"We are against the idea of autonomy and separatism", a MRF M.P. stated today. He insisted that the Bulgarian Turks' names should be restored through an administrative way, without referring the matter to court and without witnesses. "We wish to enjoy our ethnoculture, we want to speak our native language, we cherish Bulgaria's national sovereignty and her territorial integrity in the same way all Bulgarians do," he said.

The national representatives responded to his speech with loud applause, but then an argument was started.

It all began with the speech delivered by MRF M.P. Ibrakhim Tatarlu. According to him strikes were declared in the regions inhabited mainly by Turks in the towns only and a relatively small number of people took part in them. "It reminds me of 1984, the time of the totalitarian regime," Mr Tatarlu said. The MRF M.P. told the national representatives that some Bulgarian Turks were not allowed access to their work places only because the management of the enterprise they worked for had declared a strike.

The acts of separatism are not one or two, a national representative of the Bulgarian Socialist Party opposed the speeches of the representatives of the MRF. He noted that Mr Tatarlu's information was outdated and stated facts showing that the Bulgarian Turks in the villages of Razgrad region insisted on their economic leaders' resignation only because the latter were of Bulgarian origin.

Mr Dimitur Arnaudov said that he considered Mr Tatarlu's statement to be throwing down the gauntlet to him a challenge he would not accept.

Taking the floor once more, Mr Tatarlu called upon the security bodies to check all stated facts.

Today's discussion is going on tomorrow. It was proposed to set up a parliamentary commission which should visit all these regions and get first-hand information about the developments there.

Commission Examining Deputies' Credentials

AU2507105290 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0900 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] What do we know about the forthcoming work to be done in parliament today? We know for sure that the session will resume at 1500 [1200 GMT] today, and will be transmitted live on the Khorizont Program.

We also know that some of the elected parliamentary commissions are actively at work. Under the chairmanship of Metropolitan Pankratiy, the people's deputies who are examining the credentials of the deputies are holding active consultations. Working groups are also drafting the regulations for the functioning of the Grand National Assembly.

We also know that today the main subject of the debates will be the election of certain commissions, and the people's deputies also have to vote on a the text of a declaration in response to the demands raised by the trade union organizations.

At this moment we do not know whether other candidates will be proposed for the post of president of the Republic, after the existing candidates have failed to win the required majority.

SDS Economist Wants Price Increases Explained

AU2507181690 Sofia BTA in English 1734 GMT 25 Jul 90

["Opposition M.P. Demands Explanation From Government"—BTA headline]

[Text] Sofia, 25 Jul (BTA)—"Is that the market economy?" asked at today's parliamentary session the opposition M.P. Ventseslav Dimitrov, an economic expert of the Union of Democratic Forces (SDS), in connection with the enormous rise in the prices of petrol, addressing his question to Prime Minister Andrey Lukanov.

Mr. Dimitrov required information as to the actual situation of Bulgaria's economy so that it can be included in the report of the government. He also insisted that the Bulgarian National Bank, which now is under the direct control of the Bulgarian Parliament, should also present a report. In connection with yesterday's statement of Mr. Robert Maxwell that if a coalition government is not formed he would withdraw his investments from Bulgaria (amounting to 45 million dollars), Mr. Dimitrov asked where the investments had gone and what part of them had been appropriated by the ruling Bulgarian Socialist Party (BSP).

As today the Grand National Assembly debated other problems, Mr. Dimitrov did not get an answer.

"The opposition will by no means enter a coalition government," Mr. Dimitrov said a BTA reporter later, underlining that the SDS would insist on electing a president from its own ranks. His opinion is that with a Socialists' majority in parliament, the BSP group could kill any motion made by an opposition minister by "voting en bloc against it." "A coalition government can be formed only if the BSP withdraws 60 or 70 of its M.P.'s from parliament," Mr. Dimitrov said. In his view this is the only way of creating normal conditions for the work of the Grand National Assembly.

In the conditions of a one-party socialist government Mr. Dimitrov sees the role of the opposition in parliament in urging on the implementation of an economic reform. "We'll press him," he said, using a metaphor.

As an economic expert of the SDS, Mr. Dimitrov insists that the Bulgarian Parliament should be informed about the balance of the Bulgarian National Bank and that a commission on Bulgaria's foreign debt should be set up to work independently of the now operating one. He also insists that the Ministry of Finance should also present its report.

"We are worried by the fact that the BSP has not declared its property yet," Mr. Dimitrov said. In his opinion the continuing transformation of the Socialists' property into companies which have already established contacts with foreign investors under unknown conditions is a crime against the Bulgarian people's interests.

'Coupon System' Introduced in Blagoevgrad

AU2507105490 Sofia Domestic Service in Bulgarian 0800 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Beginning today, Blagoevgrad Municipality is also introducing a coupon system for supplying the population with certain food goods and products which are in short supply. An order of the Blagoevgrad Municipal People's Council lays down temporary regulations and the system of organization for purchases in individual social groups.

Independent Students Form Political Organization

AU2507115590 Sofia BTA in English 0906 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Sofia, 25 Jul (BTA)—The Federation of Independent Students Associations became a co-founder of the Mlada Demokratsiya Academic Forum and of a political club to the Mlada Demokratsiya Forum. It was decided that the two organizations should be registered independently and their relation be preserved.

The founding of the "Mlada Demokratsyia" Academic Forum is a result of the students' strike committees' decision adopted at their meeting in Veliko Turnovo after the termination of student strikes in this country. The idea about the separation of the political activity from the forum has originated at the constituent meeting in Sofia on July 22. The political club will have the statute of a party. It will be outside the frames of the higher educational institutions and, besides students, its members can be lecturers, scientific workers, and intellectuals, who are backing the students' ideas.

Ecological Experts Begin Work in Ruse, Giurgiu

AU2507191390 Sofia BTA in English 1742 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Ruse, 25 Jul (BTA)—In fulfilment of the agreement reached between the Governments of Bulgaria and Romania on the settlement of the ecological problem of the Ruse-Giurgiu Area, the two countries' joint commission of experts began their work today. After a ten-day long investigation the experts will make out a report about the degree and the nature of the industrial pollution in the area of the neighbouring towns.

The working groups of the commission will carry out their activity at one and the same time in Ruse and Giurgiu and will make their proposals to the Bulgarian and the Romanian Government by August 20, 1990. If no agreement is reached on the materials collected, they will be presented to an independent international commission of experts, in view of the final settlement of the serious ecological problem in this region.

'Road to Europe' Conference on Joint Cooperation

AU2407193590 Sofia DUMA in Bulgarian 22 Jul 90 p 2

[Dora Chichkova report: "Renewal Does Not Mean Elimination"]

[Text] "Our road to Europe goes through Southern Europe" —a declaration of the "Road to Europe" Movement which was adopted at yesterday's national conference of the movement's coordinators, reads.

In discussing this question it was pointed out that a full participation in the all-European process not only fails to preclude, but even requires the priority development of regional cooperation. For Bulgaria, relations with the countries of southern Europe is a priority for several sociopsychological, economic, and political considerations.

The main subject of the conference was devoted to the participation of the "Road to Europe Movement" in the forthcoming national conference of the clubs for radical change. The resolution adopted at the conference explains the position of the movement which could be summarized in the following manner: "The renewal of the Bulgarian Socialist Party [BSP] should essentially result in transforming the BSP into a new party. However, we consider this necessity a process of evolution into a new party, and not as a process of self-elimination, or as a split of the BSP into opposed factions as a purpose in itself." The new BSP should be a modern, left wing, parliamentarian party, aspiring to socialist values and not committed to doctrinaire theories.

"The Road to Europe" Movement thinks that a destabilization of the BSP might result in a destabilization of society as a whole. The movement distances itself from any ultra-radical deviations and attacks.

Along with this, the participants in the conference confirmed that the renewal of the BSP is impossible without a consolidation of society.

"The BSP will be transformed into a parliamentarian party to the same extent to which the opposition turns into a constructive opposition," Professor Doctor Petur-Emil Mitev, co-chairman of the Movement, stated. He expressed his concern about the political polarization which has deteriorated since the elections, instead of diminishing. The road on which parliament has embarked is a fight for every key position, and such an approach certainly does not promote civic peace, he said.

The leader of the "Road to Europe" Movement stressed that an optimal improvement of relations with the opposition on a local scale is also required in addition to good relations "at the top."

The participants in the conference expressed their stand on the forthcoming BSP Congress. In their opinion, the congress should be convened as soon as possible and the ratio of representatation should be one delegate to every 500 party members. The numerical problem [nomeratsiya] of the congress should be decided by the congress itself, according to the results and the decisions adopted.

The "Road to Europe" Movement also joined in the appeal of the DEMOS [expanison unknown] Movement, according to which veteran fighters against fascism and capitalism should renounce their privilieges.

EC Group Offers Industrial, Agricultural Aid

AU2507170090 Sofia BTA in English 1601 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Sofia, 25 Jul (BTA)—"We can help you a lot in personnel training and in keeping the highly skilled experts in your country which can work to the best of their capabilities and qualifications," Mr Jean Maillot, head of a visiting European Community delegation, told Mr Krustyu Stanilov, minister of industry and technology.

This readiness was expressed in answer to problems for the solution of which Bulgaria expects economic aid. The other field in which Bulgaria can rely on help from the twelve is agriculture and the application of environment-friendly technologies. According to the EC experts, the link between farming and ecological problems is a field where joint research could be realized quite easily and both parties would benefit.

The guests see opportunities for cooperation in standardization, too. The solution of these problems should precede any joint action. This applies to industrial and technological cooperation as well as to business contacts. An emphasis was laid on the need for Bulgaria to speak the same languages as the community countries. For Bulgaria, it is particularly important to keep developing telecommunications and computer technology. The conviction was expressed that the West German companies will be interested in a dialogue with Bulgarian companies on the formation of joint ventures. The foreign experts say the fine researcher teams in this country provide a good basis for this.

Havel Leaves for Salzburg Festival

LD2607082690 Prague CTK in English 0757 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Thurnau, Bavaria, July 26 (CTK correspondent)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel and West German President Richard von Weizsaecker left here today by helicopter for a private visit to Salzburg to attend the opening of the Salzburg Festival.

Both presidents met here yesterday and in the evening were present at the opening of the 79th Richard Wagner festival in Bayreuth.

Opposition to Havel-Waldheim Meeting

LD2607083190 Prague CTK in English 0811 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Prague July 26 (CTK)—The fact that Czechoslovak President Vaclav Havel is to meet with Austrian President Kurt Waldheim during his today's private visit to Salzburg has aroused discontent in Czechoslovakia recently.

The press, social organizations and individuals pointed out the Nazi past of Kurt Waldheim for which he has been shunned by the international public despite the fact he held the post of U.N. secretary-general for ten years in 1972-1981. Great attention was paid to the negative stance of the Charter 77, the former dissident movement fighting for civic and human rights in Czechoslovakia founded by Vaclav Havel at the end of 1976.

Vaclav Havel was invited to officially open the Salzburg Festival as a renowned playwright, writer and humanitarian movement activist a year ago, i.e. at the time he was persecuted by the communist regime at home. According to his statement published by mass media on July 20, the purpose of his trip to Austria has not been changed even by the fact that the gentle revolution in November 1989 resulted in his becoming Czechoslovakia's president. Despite the protests President Havel decided to visit Salzburg and deliver a speech on the opening of the music festival there also because he considers the invitation, as he said in his statement, to be an honour and expression of the respect for his literary activity and his struggle for human rights in Czechoslovakia.

Moreover, Austria was the first country to acknowledge the values of Vaclav Havel's works when it awarded the state prize for European literature to him in 1969. Vaclav Havel is also a member of the Austrian pen-club. Last year he was awarded Dr Karl Renner prize for his works on political themes, essays and contemplation writings.

Kurt Waldheim, elected Austria's president in 1986, paid an unofficial visit to Czechoslovakia in his capacity of foreign minister in 1968. In 1973 and 1975 he officially visited Czechoslovakia as U.N. secretary-general. According to President Havel's statement for the Austrian press, an official visit to Austria is not planned within the next two years.

Bratislava Radio Views Trip

LD2607090590 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 0500 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] [Announcer] Following our President Vaclav Havel's participation in the important music festival in Bayreuth, this statesman, closely watched by the world, arrives in Salzburg today to open with an address a similar but obviously even more famous festival. Why has this famous annual cultural event assumed a highly political character this year? And what note can Havel's "officially private" presence on Austrian soil end up on? Let our special correspondent Ivan Brozik report now:

[Brozik] Is this a private or a state visit? Despite the declarations and efforts of President Havel to present his stay in Salzburg as a private one, it will obviously be, above all, a political event today. There are several reasons for this: the end of the long political isolation of Kurt Waldheim, president of the Austrian Republic, because he will meet at a luncheon not only Vaclav Havel but also his counterpart from the FRG, Richard von Weizsaecker. The talks which Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky is planning with Vaclav Havel on the Jaslovske Bohunice [nuclear power station] issue hardly fit in the summer music festival framework. And plans for the private visit to Salzburg have probably evaporated completely after reports that the Austrian Greens, above all, are planning various protests aiming to criticize the Czechoslovak nuclear program. The most curious thing, however, is that the protest demonstrations which Vaclav Havel will witness are not directed against his person.

As a writer, and more recently as a politician, Vaclav Havel is exceptionally popular in Austria. He is respected also as a supporter of public opinion. In any case the vision of the private character of our president's participation in the opening of the Salzburg music festival has been dispersed even before today. This is, no doubt, an unenviable situation for Vaclav Havel, but, as journalists here say, he is precisely a personality who can resolve with charm even the insoluble.

Further Reportage

For reportage on the visit by President Havel to Austria, including reports on his talks with Chancellor Vranitzky and the text of his speech delivered at the Salzburg Festival, please see the Austria Section of the 26 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Havel Meets With FRG President at Bayreuth

LD2507174890 Prague CTK in English 1547 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Thurnau, Bavaria July 25 (CTK)—Czechoslovak President Vaclav havel met with President of the Federal

Republic of Germany Richard von Weizsaecker at Thurnau chateau near Bayreuth today.

They conferred for three quarters of an hour. The talk was described as cordial and friendly. Richard von Weizsaecker was interested in the situation in Czechoslovakia after last month's parliamentary elections. Vaclav Havel informed him in detail of the political and economic development in the country, including complications in oil supplies.

The presidents discussed the possibilities of economic cooperation between their countries.

Vaclav Havel will attend the opening of the 79th Richard Wagner Festival in Bayreuth tonight.

Slimak Satisfied With U.S. Visit, Cheney Talks

LD2607132890 Prague CTK in English 1259 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Prague July 26 (CTK)—On his return home today, Czechoslovak First Deputy National Defence Minister and Army Chief of Staff Major General Anton Slimak voiced satisfaction with his visit to the USA and Canada, the first ever by a Czechoslovak military representative to North America.

Speaking about his meeting with U.S. Defence Secretary Richard Cheney, he said he was briefed on the United States' security policy and tasks of the U.S. Army. Richard Cheney welcomed the information about a 30-per cent reduction of the Czechoslovak Army.

Anton Slimak said that both sides soberly assessed the developments in Europe and agreed that the Vienna talks should be sped up and a final document signed before the planned CSCE states' summit in Paris.

In view of the latest talks between the Warsaw Treaty and NATO, the two representatives noted that prerequisites have been created for further disarmament in Europe and for full elimination of ideological enmity.

According to Anton Slimak, the U.S. defence secretary was interested in the progress of departure of Soviet troops from Czechoslovakia where they have been since a Soviet-led invasion crushed the revival process in the country in 1968. Asked whether the possibility of U.S. servicemen's withdrawal from West Germany was indicated, the Czecholsovak first deputy national defence minister's answer was in the negative. The view is still held that the U.S. presence in Europe is grounded.

This will be used by both sides in concrete cooperation. During visits with U.S. units in West Germany Czechoslovak soldiers will gather experience in organizing training, and in ensuring social and material needs planned are also contacts between experts in military education and representatives of special units. The U.S. side offered the Czechoslovak Army to arrange a long-term training stay for special-designation units, the Czechoslovak representative said.

President of the Joint Chiefs of Staff of the U.S. Armed Forces General Colin Powell showed interest in results of conversion of the Czechoslovak armament industry saying that it will soon be topical also in the United States as tension in international relations is being eased, Anton Slimak said.

Gasoline Purchase From Soviet Troops

AU2607090890 Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak 24 Jul 90 p 2

[Milan Sabata report: "Expensive Before; All Right Now"]

[Excerpts] The Benzinol employees were not relieved of their worries after the gasoline and diesel fuel price increase. Contrary to expectations, gasoline sales have not dropped in recent days. This is why they are seeking any possibility to secure gasoline and diesel fuel and to deliver it to gas stations.

Gasoline and diesel fuel will be purchased from a nontraditional source—from the crude oil and fuel reserves of the Central Group of Soviet Army in Vlkanova, near Banska Bystrica. [passage omitted]

Via Unicoop, a foreign trade enterprise, Benzinol wants to purchase from Vlkanova—for U.S. dollars—at least 2,500 tonnes of gasoline and 6,000 tonnes of diesel fuel which is used in winter operations. As we learned yesterday from Engineer Kamil Moravek, Benzinol trade department chief in Bratislava, the agreement which was to have been concluded by the chief officials via Unicoop in Prague, amounted to this quantity. In view of the fact that gasoline consumption has not dropped, they are trying to acquire these propellants as soon as possible in order to deliver them to the gas stations in Slovakia.

Federal Trade Official on Soviet Trade

AU2607082490 Prague ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY in Czech 20 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Engineer Lubomir Martak, candidate of sciences and director of the 21st section of the Federal Ministry of Foreign Trade, by ZEMEDELSKE NOVINY correspondent Jan Bauer; place and date not given: "On Foreign Trade With the Soviet Union"]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted on cut in Soviet oil deliveries] [Bauer] You are conducting intensive negotiations with our Soviet partners in connection with the transition in mutual trade to the freely convertible currency. What point have you reached in these negotiations?

[Martak] The last session took place shortly before the elections and we dealt with the entire spectrum of problems in the area of the trade in goods, recalculation of the government credit, and integration projects. We are practically at the end of the negotiations and at the point of concluding the issue.

[Bauer] These negotiations certainly were not easy. What were the differences between our and Soviet standpoints?

[Martak] It is understandable that both sides want to achieve the transfer to the freely convertible currency with minimal losses or maximum profits. The Soviet side no longer wants to guarantee the acceptance of the total payments for its raw materials in barter. In any case, the point is that we would like to continue paying for a part of the raw materials that we have until now imported from the Soviet Union with our engineering products or with consumer goods. The other goods, not traded for raw materials, should be paid in convertible currencies at world prices. I estimate that we will have to supply approximately 20 percent more goods [than we do now] to cover the same quantity of raw materials. Another problem is the fact that other goods, i.e., about 40 percent, maybe more, should be sold as though they were being sold for convertible currency, as in the West, but neither the Soviet nor our side have the dollars necessary to purchase them. Therefore, we are looking for a solution in countertrade; but these are very complex problems because the goods we export or want to buy usually are not in the same hands.

[Bauer] Are some of the problems on the Soviet side politically motivated?

[Martak] No, I do not think so. At present, the USSR has lots of internal problems; its previous economic mechanism has disintegrated, and there is no new market mechanism yet in operation. Precisely these Soviet problems are reflected in our mutual trade. After all, while for the USSR trade with Czechoslovakia represents only nine percent of total foreign trade turnover, the USSR has a 30-percent share of Czechoslovak foreign trade. I would exclude, however, the possibility of some political intent. After all, the Soviet side behaves in its contact with us exactly the same as it does with any other East European country.

[Bauer] What kind of an impact on our national economy will the transition to convertible currency in trade with the Soviet Union have?

[Martak] It will create difficulties because the volume involved is large. Moreover, for over 40 years we were used to supplying the Soviet market and we are bound to it. Therefore, the key issue now is to create conditions that would promote competitiveness and to seek entry into other than the Soviet markets so that Czechoslovakia is not so dependent on the USSR for its raw materials. At the same time, however, I believe that the strength of the impact depends on the length of the transitional period and, in this respect, both the Soviet and our sides have something in reserve. As long as the transition is gradual and reasonable, we will keep the Soviet market, which is courted by the entire West and which will continue to be the most interesting market within our reach, and the impact on our national economy will not necessarily be drastic.

Joint Venture Set Up To Reprocess Coal Sludge

AU2407153990 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 19 Jul 90 p 8

["CTK, ru"-signed report: "Billions Out of Mud"]

[Text] The West German Hoelter company and the directorate of the Ostrava-Karvina Mines have signed the founders' contract for a joint enterprise called HOELOK. It will build near Darkov, Karvina district, a new plant for the separation of waste rock from fuel out of coal sludge.

In the many years of coal mining in the Ostrava area, between 20 and 30 million tonnes of waste from coal preparation plants and coal washing plants have accumulated in sludge pits. Until recently, this so-called sludge has been used only rarely, primarily as fuel for central heating.

Most of the fuel produced by the joint enterprise will be sold abroad, at 85 German marks per tonne. The reprocessing of a mere 10 million tonnes of sludge will bring a profit of 850 million German marks. Another contribution of the plant will be the disappearance of the malodorous sludge pits from the coal mines' surroundings, in the place of which shrubs, trees, and flowers will be planted.

Minister Gregr Receives FRG Economics Minister

LD2407171190 Prague CTK in English 1608 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Prague July 24 (CTK)—Czech Minister of General and Electrical Engineering Miroslav Gregr today received Erich Riedl, state secretary of the Federal Republic of Germany for economics and transport.

They discussed cooperation in aircraft manufacture. After seeing the production program of the Aero Vodochody enterprise, the German representatives spoke favourably about the level of the Czechoslovak aircraft industry and its chances in international integration. They also discussed the methods of privatisation in Czechoslovakia and West Germany.

Hungarian Espionage Activity Alleged in Slovakia

AU2507143090 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 24 Jul 90 p 1

[Tibor Ferko report: "Espionage? When and How?"]

[Text] Budapest— The news that activity by Romanian Secret Service agents has been detected in the southern part of the country caused a great excitement in the Hungarian press. In connection with these reports, an increased interest was aroused by the information that similar activity by the Hungarian intelligence service has been detected in southern Slovakia.

Reports have leaked out that Slovak Republic Premier Vladimir Meciar mentioned the matter to Hungarian

President Arpad Goncz, noting that we would prefer tourists to this kind of visitors.

With my colleague from Czechoslovak Radio, we addressed Interior Minister Balasz Horvath in the building of the Hungarian parliament. We wanted to hear from him how he sees the situation at a time when both countries are declaring their sincere desire for improving relations. The Hungarian minister said: "I have heard about it, but I do not know anything about Hungarian agents being present in southern Slovakia. I am not sure on what information you base your allegation. We would need to know the time and place in order to find out. I believe, however, that this report is an unreliable one, since Hungarian intelligence service agents do not work on your territory. I will personally be very happy if we clarify this matter and if there are no disputable issues to ruin our good relations for which we are both striving."

It is clear to us that information of this kind is not made public by publishing it in newspapers. However, if the neighboring country is scandalized by the same thing they are doing elsewhere, it would be appropriate to help them to remember it and to make the information complete.

Calfa on Food Prices, Cutting Oil Consumption

AU2407180990 Prague PRACE in Czech 20 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[Interview with Premier Marian Calfa by "(kjk)"-signed reporter; place and date not given: "Food (Probably) Will Not Be More Expensive"; first paragraph is PRACE introduction]

[Text] It is no secret to the general public (the contrary is true) that the government has been working on the necessary crude oil price increase for six months. In other words, the gasoline prices, which were introduced yesterday, were supposed to be introduced as of 1 January 1991. We interviewed CSFR Premier Marian Calfa about the structure and the wide scope of price changes.

[PRACE] Mr. Premier, does the federal government already know—if it is not a secret—how rapid and what will be affected by the price increase?

[Calfa] I have no reason to keep anything a secret. Just as in the case of the fuel price increase, the CSFR Government will communicate its intentions.... Simply, nothing will be kept secret. Or, put in a different way—Now, at this moment, we do not know which prices will go up. At the former "price office," which is now part of the Federal Ministry of Finance, they are working very hard today. It is necessary to realize, however, that the consequences will appear wherever crude oil enters into the industrial process.... So, first, it is important to know what is produced from crude oil in the CSFR—for example plastics, lubricants, oils, cosmetics, detergents.... The crude oil price increase will simply find its reflection in the price of a number of products—I stress: It will not have a full impact in all cases. A very complicated mechanism is involved, influenced by a number of factors—for example taxes, and a number of other things.... From this it ensues that some elements in the financial mechanism can be attenuated while others cannot; and this will be reflected in retail prices. I want to add, however, that this does not pertain to food.

[PRACE] Panic has already started to spread in a chain reaction, however. The lines for detergents prove this.

[Calfa] We know that people are lining up and we know why—to save the difference between the new price and the old one. They are behaving economically, and I am not angry with them for that.... As far as detergents are concerned, I really cannot say whether they will become more expensive or not. I am not hiding anything in this regard; I simply do not know yet. On the other hand, I know that crude oil based materials are used for the production of detergents.

[PRACE] You mentioned that the crude oil price increase will have no influence on food prices....

[Calfa] As far as I know, crude oil is not used for food production in our country yet.

[PRACE] ....Farmers or food producers may come up with the reasoning that the production costs for milk, bread, butter, etc., have risen.

[Calfa] As far as agriculture is concerned, of course, talks will be held. We would like to dampen the impact so that the crude oil price increase and gasoline price increase have no bearing on food prices. There are a number of mechanisms suitable for this, and we will want to use them.

[PRACE] Finally, are you not afraid of setting the inflation spiral spinning?

[Calfa] I would not see the situation as catastrophic. What has in fact happened? The Soviets have delivered 400,000 tonnes of crude oil less that the agreed upon limits. Consequently, we had to react by implementing instantaneous measures; we will see what consequences it will have. We have to be prepared, however, for the fact that raw materials will become more expensive. On the other hand, this has to be compensated by other reformist steps in tax reform, in the financial and credit spheres—just as we are talking about it....—and in restructuring. We are not going to save crude oil by increasing prices for fuel. These millions tonnes of crude oil go into industry and now we are watching where they really do go, and we will have simply to cut its consumption or to introduce price measures. It seems, however, that price elasticity has its limits.... That is we will have to cut the absolute consumption of crude oil even at the expense of having some industries disappear because there will simply be no crude oil for them. This is why we are not thinking about inflation only in terms of retail prices but also adopt the view that there are available mechanisms capable of restructuring the economy in such a way that crude oil would not be a buffer causing inflation.

Calfa Interviewed on Economic Reform

AU2507100590 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 19 Jul 90 pp 1, 5

[Report on interview with CSFR Premier Marian Calfa by Pavel Paral and Igor Sirota in the CSFR premier's office; date not given: "Four Steps Toward the Market"; first two paragraphs are RUDE PRAVO introduction]

[Text] The government obtained parliament's confidence; however, with more then one "but." The Trade Unions even threatened a strike and that is why the first meeting of the cabinet—after the approval of its policy statement—proceeded under certain pressure.

"Is it because of this and because of the expected gasoline price increase that the government preferred to retreat to Kolodeje?", was the first question which we asked Marian Calfa, CSFR premier, whom we met in his office.

[Calfa] The government met in Kolodeje. I chose this place myself. It is public knowledge that we have already met here before; that is, it is difficult to talk about some kind of hiding. Moreover, I do not believe that the government proceeded under pressure from the Trade Unions, because the date—15 July—for solving the miners' problems had been fixed some months ago. Moreover, we have taken more than a few steps toward improving the situation. We have decided that we will not permit young people under 21 to work underground; we have decided on new levels of permissible dust content and the maximum number of shifts, etc. The only question which has not been solved is when should miners retire; at the age of 50 or 55? We will have to deal with this issue when we receive all the documents.

And the last issue—gasoline? We were preparing the step for the beginning of next year. For generally known reasons, we have had to implement a complex solution now.

[RUDE PRAVO] Is the reduction in Soviet crude oil deliveries a retaliation by the Soviet side for our current policy toward the USSR?

[Calfa] I have negotiated with the Soviet ambassador, to whom I explained the urgency of the problems, and, at the same time, I demanded that he deliver my personal letter to Premier Ryzhkov; in this letter I demand that the agreements on crude oil deliveries be met. I would not dramatize the situation. There is nothing which would testify to the fact that some kind of retaliation is involved. The Soviet ambassador assured me that the reasons for this situation were problems in the economy. In the Soviet Union, a decomposition of the existing system is also taking place, and this is accompanied by lower productivity and working discipline. On the other hand, the problems with crude oil deliveries began this year. This may induce doubts in some citizens, but, I repeat: From no gestures, behavior, or statements made by leading Soviet officials can it be inferred that a retaliation is taking place.

[RUDE PRAVO] Will the experience of the food price increase and the gasoline buying panics change the government's attitude toward implementing unpopular measures?

[Calfa] In principle, it will not. We believe that it is important to proceed completely openly. If we declare a price increase, then we will do so a few days in advance. We do not want to repeat the former attitude, when something was declared at midnight, yet it had been denied an hour before.

[RUDE PRAVO] What about the buying frenzies?

[Calfa] Frankly, I consider this to be quite normal; citizens are behaving economically. We intend to tell the people directly what the situation is and what the possibilities are for solving it.

[RUDE PRAVO] The government, in its new composition, will apparently be without internal conflicts. The dispute involving Klaus versus Komarek has been solved. Still, objections can be heard. The deputy for the liberal democrats, E. Mandler, asked whether the government's composition—specifically you and the defense minister, who are former Communist Party of Czechoslovakia members—will guarantee the good operation of the cabinet. Do you think that we should continue to "evaluate the cadres" and to dig up the past of specialists at all levels?

[Calfa] A deputy can voice his opinion; being a deputy, I can too.

I represent the Public Against Violence movement [VPN] in the federal government. During this year, I have passed two exams. One—when I was offered the VPN candidacy—I saw some kind of appreciation of my work in it. Two—when I passed as the VPN candidate and the election results belonged to the best in Slovakia. We fought for free elections, and this is why we have to respect their outcome. If a certain concept was taken into account—I do not say that the only correct concept is to have a Slovak premier when the president is a Czech—then it is only natural that the premier is the representative of the winning political force in Slovakia, that is, a VPN representative. The president appointed me, after an agreement with the victorious political forces and after other political forces represented in parliament expressed their opinion. Apropos your question regarding the evaluation of cadres and the past: Mrs. Vera Caslavska has presented a very nice idea that now, when we are facing the future, we must not turn back to the past. Of course, it is necessary to examine the past, to learn from it, to avoid mistakes, and to make conclusions, including criminal charges. I do not prefer delving into the past, but learning from the past and looking into the future is the right thing to do.

[RUDE PRAVO] Economic reform, that is, a decisive step toward the market economy, is the main issue your government has to tackle. Will we learn, at least roughly, about the timetable for its implementation?

[Calfa] I understand that citizens as well as deputies want to be familiar with the government's idea about reform. The government has to have such an idea and, in fact, it really has it. More concrete material than the policy statement will explain it. It is a scenario of economic reform. We are working on it already. We are supposed to present it to parliament, based on parliament's demands, no later than the end of August 1990. This is also when we will present it to the public.

[RUDE PRAVO] How are you going to start the reform and when?

[Calfa] First: We should really deal with denationalization and privatization. I do not say that everything will be denationalized and privatized by the end of the year; but there are branches where we need to implement this as much as a goat needs scratching, if I may say so—for example, in public catering, small business, trade, and services. Second: We have to prepare ourselves for the transition of our trade with CEMA countries toward payments in convertible currency. It is an enormous intervention into the entire structure of our relations, that is, an intervention also into our production and production costs. This will certainly have an important impact on domestic prices. The third sphere of problems is the question of the koruna's convertibility for which we are preparing ourselves and which is basically dependent on the quality and marketability of our products. Fourth: As of January, we have to prepare at least a basic idea about the tax level, which will represent a sort of tax unification as well as a certain decrease in its level. I want to emphasize that we are not forgetting the social sphere or ecology, either. We will determine the principles of ecological policy, but we also have to decide which pollution sources and which thermal power plants we are going to close. We dealt with all this during the first half year, we were thinking about it, and now the time for implementing specific decisions has come. Everything is open and everything can be discussed. This means that the government operates continuously and without taking a rest; the government will not take holidays, either. We will replace one another, week by week, so that the majority of ministers is present at all times. We need to physically switch off for a while.

[RUDE PRAVO] Discussing problems with the opposition is the right thing to do. What about the president's new "shadow cabinet"? Is this not an interference in the government's authority?

[Calfa] It cannot be deduced that because new sections in the president's office have been established they will interfere in the government's jurisdiction. Moreover, as far as the president's authority is concerned, the majority of people do not know what this authority actually is. They have but to read the Constitution. Read it along with me: Apart from representing the country abroad, the president negotiates agreements, receives and verifies the credentials of ambassadors, convenes or dissolves the Federal Assembly, has the right to present a report on the situation in the country to the Federal Assembly, and to adopt specific measures. He also has large authorities in relation to the government. He has the right to be present at the government's meeting, to chair it, and to demand reports from the government and its individual members, and to discuss, in the government or with its individual members, the questions to be solved. Of course, all these rights were somehow forgotten—the power of the party bridged over them. Now, having removed this "roof," we can see what is inside. We are finding that the relation between the president and the government, the Federal Assembly, and the courts, etc., is not yet clearly established. We are finding that we do not have a classical presidential system, and neither do we have a parliamentary system. It is a kind of a hybrid which did not cause troubles before. It is really up to the president how he is going to organize his office and his constitutional activities.

[RUDE PRAVO] Does the government want to push for reform against its strong opponents, as are the national governments? They do not agree, for example, with the federal taxes. Do you see in the activities of the national governments, which are striving for the acquisition of all the sources produced on their territories, a threat to a unified economic policy and to the economic reform at all?

[Calfa] In our policy statement, we do not share the republics' opinions, as far as the creation of the federal budget is concerned. We believe that the federation should have its own income. In other words, there should be federal taxes. Further, there should be republican taxes and, perhaps, county taxes, local fees, etc. This is our idea. We have also said that we want to discuss our ideas with the republics and with the legislative organs. I could not understand why this was labeled as a confrontational standpoint. It is not clear to me, even now, what is confrontational about voicing someone's opinion. By the way, as far as the budget question is concerned, opinions have become considerably closer.

There is a second meaning in your question—the transfer of some economies to the jurisdiction of national republics. This transfer has not been carried out, because it was the wish of the federation. It happened as it did after mutual and completely clear and precise agreements between both republics and the federation. It is not true, as the Slovak National Party deputy, Mrs. Andelova, has stated, that we have deliberately given "something" to the republics. On the contrary. During the talks, I persuaded the representatives of the republics that what they want is a serious problem. It is necessary to take over the general machine industry. That is the way they can achieve the conversion of the arms industry. I believe that this is beyond the powers of one republic. That is, the contrary is true; I have pointed out the risks. Of course, they thought that I did not want those industrial branches to be transferred to the jurisdictions of the republics, that I do not trust their endavours, etc. You see, today they are accusing us from a completely opposite direction. I cannot at all accept the opinion that the federation should be left with metallurgy, fuels, and energy, including uranium extraction, in order to be able to exert pressure on the republics. What kind of thinking is this? I believe that it clearly follows from our declaration that our republic is small enough to permit someone to exert pressure on someone else. We do not intend to walk a road other than the road of cooperation among the three state formations.

[RUDE PRAVO] Our former policy was influenced by our eastern neighbor; not only by its leading position in the bloc, but also by its economic ties. Today, on our western border, a power is being born, the trade importance of which will be greater than that with the Soviet Union. Are there some steps to take in order to ensure that some regulatory mechanisms do not penetrate from this side into our country that could influence our sovereignty?

[Calfa] I would not pose the problem this way. For us, the Soviet Union remains an exceptionally important and strong partner as a supplier of some raw materials of vital importance to our economy. However, it is also a market which has great prospects. It is not only our opinion; it is also the opinion of the foremost world traders. We have our place in this market. Why should we leave it? Moreover, on the western border, really, an exceptionally strong neighbor is being established, or, to be precise, has already been established. We had a quite different set of trade ties with each part of Germany. Now they are being transformed to the same level. I do not understand why, during the transformation to a market level, these relations should worsen and why we should be the loser. On the contrary, we will have to get used to it. We have held talks with both the FRG and the GDR. Of course, I recognize that these questions are very difficult ones. The Germans are facing problems of mutual relations, yet both sides show goodwill and understanding for the situation which has arisen in Czechoslovakia due to the unification of Germany.

[RUDE PRAVO] The government assures us that it wants to cooperate with the trade unions; that is, it wants to cooperate in a triangle: the government, the trade unions, and the employers. The trade unions object to this and claim that the only thing they have is the promise of cooperation. Is it not up to the government to take a more significant step?

[Calfa] We want to establish a commission soon, which would be the place for solving problems in the presence of all three. A certain curb on cooperation with the trade unions is that they have changed completely. The ministerial structure is also changing. It will take some time before a rhythm of mutual cooperation is found. Today we have, for example, technical problems with the transportation of materials. All this must be solved and, at the same time, tolerance and goodwill must be shown on both sides. And we have these.

[RUDE PRAVO] Communist and other deputies criticize the weak spots in the social sphere. What is your answer?

[Calfa] It is necessary to say one thing—the level of social security must correspond to the level of the economy. It is the Czechoslovak experience, acquired during 40 years, that the level of social security and the economy do not match.

[RUDE PRAVO] Do you want to say that it has outdistanced the economy?

[Calfa] In fact, yes; despite the fact, that compared to the world, it did not attain the necessary level. The means were taken out of the economy and were given to consumption in the social sphere. I do not say that it was not necessary. But the fact is, that what was taken from the economy was missing there. The economy did not have enough means for modernization and it grew old and lost its breath. It did not perform so well as to justify such a range of social securities. So, it is impossible to speak about social security as some decision made by the government. It is a question of judging the possibilities that the economy offers. It is very painful if we have to state that the expenses had been higher than the possibilities offered by the economy. We will have to harmonize all this today, which is, naturally, very unpopular but unavoidable, since only a performing economy can guarantee a good and quality social background; it cannot be done the other way round.

[RUDE PRAVO] We were of the impression that gestures were a matter of the past. The decision made by the members of the government to waive the 140 korunas monthly, while taking salaries which are a hundred times higher than normal wages, testifies to the contrary. Did you want to show that you really are a government of national sacrifice?

[Calfa] I do not understand why gestures should not be made and why they are explained in a bad way. It happened spontaneously on the basis of an appeal made by Minister Klaus and on the basis of a general consensus. We take it that a group of people decided to act somehow. It is not a challenge or a prescription, it is simply a manifestation of the will of 17 members of the government in their personal matter.

[RUDE PRAVO] Thank you for the interview.

New Opportunities To Obtain Hard Currency

AU2407154290 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 18 Jul 90 p 2

[Jan Ferenc report: "More Foreign Exchange for Our Citizens"]

[Excerpts] Foreign exchange loans and purchases at foreign exchange auctions are two new ways in which

Czechoslovak citizens may legally obtain foreign exchange funds, on the basis of the federal government's resolution No. 437 of 1990. The existing opportunities, consisting of foreign exchange purchases up to an annual limit of 2,000 korunas per adult and 1,000 korunas per child under the age of 15, are thereby being expanded. [passage omitted]

The foreign exchange loans will be extended to Czechoslovak citizens by the banks through so-called swap operations: The citizen will deposit in korunas the equivalent of the foreign exchange funds he is asking for, including the equivalent of the exchange fee. After the repayment of the loan in foreign currency, the koruna equivalent will be paid back to him. Loans in freely convertible currencies up to a value of $250 may be extended as of 1 August 1990. The repayment of the loan is due in 12 months.

The Czechoslovak State Bank also permits the commercial banks to sell foreign exchange funds purchased at regular foreign exchange auctions to Czechoslovak citizens. There will be no limit on the amount they may sell. This opportunity will be introduced at the next foreign exchange auction, to be held on 25 July 1990. The following day commercial banks may start the unlimited sale of foreign exchange to Czechoslovak citizens at the exchange rate determined at the auction. This rate of exchange will be updated after every foreign exchange auction, i.e., every two weeks. The Czechoslovak State Bank allows the commercial banks to charge a fee equivalent to a maximum of 10 percent of the rate determined at the auction to cover their expenses.

The aim of both newly introduced measures is to meet the justified wishes of the public [for access to more hard currency] without increasing the state's debt in foreign exchange.

The following banks avail themselves of the relevant authorization [to grant foreign exchange loans and sell hard currency to Czechoslovak citizens]: Commercial Bank Prague, General Credit Bank Bratislava, Investment Bank, Czechoslovak Commercial Bank, and Zivnostenska Bank. [passage omitted]

Unrestricted Sale of Convertible Currencies Begins

LD2607120790 Prague CTK in English 1043 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Prague July 26 (CTK)—Today, the Czechoslovak banks launched unrestricted sale of some convertible currencies to Czechoslovak citizens at unified rates, achieved at yesterday's (Wednesday) currency action, increased by 10 per cent.

The exchange rates for the six chief currencies are:
1 West German mark......25.25 cz. crowns
1 U.S. dollar...........41.77
1 Austrian schilling.....3.57
1 Swiss franc...........29.78
1 French franc...........7.50
1 British pound.........74.89 [passage omitted]

It is too early to have the reactions of the Czechoslovak citizens to the outcome of the hard currency auctions. However, let's compare the "official", "black market" and "unrestricted" sale" rates of the West German mark:

Tourist buying price........15.06 CZ. crowns
Tourist selling price.......18.40
Black market price..........19.00 - 21.00
Unrestricted sale price.....25.25

Nuclear Issue Clouding Relations With Austria

AU2507130790 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 20 Jul 90 p 6

[Ivan Horsky commentary: "Dialogue Yes; but Without Conditions"]

[Text] The exceptionally rapid development in relations between our republic and neighboring Austria are clouded again, due to the gnawing problem surrounding nuclear energy, specifically, due to the first two blocks of the V-1 power station in Jaslovske Bohunice.

The controversy discussed in the Austrian mass media and subsequent declarations made by politicians in Vienna are based on the assumption that Jiri Beranek, Czechoslovak Nuclear Commission chairman, allegedly declared that due to serious problems, both blocks should be shut down in order to avoid a possible repeat of the Chernobyl tragedy.

In her first reaction, Magda Vasaryova, CSFR ambassador to Austria, declared that the blocks would be shut down, but only after two to three years. This is understandable, since our energy balance sheet is very tight and recent developments in the supply of liquid fuel only make it tighter.

Chancellor Franz Vranitzky who, among other things, requested that Federal Premier Marian Calfa react properly to Austrian fears and worries, also participated in the discussion in a decisive manner. Marilies Fleming, Austrian environment minister, let herself be heard, too. She appreciated our government's intention to shut down the operation of the two blocks, yet she spoke on behalf of the complete closure of the Bohunice power plant. This happened despite the assurances given by our authorities that the remaining two blocks are completely safe.

I fully understand Austria's worries, which mainly originate from the fact that our power plants are located near its border. I also accept the decision made by (a minority of) the population which, long before Chernobyl, gave a "red light" to nuclear energy. They could do so. Austria, as a mountainous country, has unused hydro potential, namely in the Alps, yet the planned construction of hydro power plants has been postponed until an uncertain date—or until it becomes necessary—due to the population's resistance.

We, as opposed to Austria, do not have such reserves. The energy policy of the past 40 years has left behind unremovable traces. We are in a so-called vicious circle. Bound by international agreements, in which Austria is a participant, we are forced, in the interests of improving the ecological situation in Central and in all of Europe, to reduce harmful emissions coming, in particular, from the brown coal power stations.

But, on the balance sheet, there will be a power deficit. This is why, based on many criteria, we have to develop nuclear energy, while, of course, respecting maximum quality and safety. The protection of our populace and that of neighboring countries is the issue. This is why we have concluded agreements in this direction with Austria and why we invite renowned experts from foreign countries to independently evaluate the projects as well as their implementation. Of course, we have reserves, as far as reduction in consumption is concerned, yet the reconstruction of our economy within a day would be impossible.

It is a strategic and therefore a political question. We cannot rely only on outside help; nor will power supplies from Zwentedorf solve our problems completely. This does not mean, however, that we are refusing cooperation and help. We are not avoiding dialogue about problems. We are asking, however, for an understanding of our problems, too. What we are refusing is a knife being held to our throat. No one likes that.

Schwarzenberg Interviewed on Chancellery, Bohunice

AU2507130290 Prague in Czech 24 Jul 90 pp 1,8

[Interview with CSFR Chancellor Karel Schwarzenberg by Jaroslav Veis; place and date not given: "The Period of Euphoria Is Behind Us"]

[Excerpts] After restructuring his chancellery, President Vaclav Havel entrusted Karel Schwarzenberg with administering it. The newly appointed chancellor was formerly chairman of the International Helsinki Federation for Human Rights, and recently became the head of the president's council of consultants.

[Veis] Mr. Chancellor, what role will the restructured presidential chancellery have in political life under your administration? Views are being expressed that it resembles the government in its structure, and that it might play the role of some kind of "shadow cabinet"....

[Schwarzenberg] This charge results from comparing the chancellery which we have established with the one that operated during the past 40 years. The president's office was merely an appendage to the Communist Party, and the president's chancellery, more or less, looked after the administration of Prague Castle, the gardens, and receptions. Everything important took place in the Central Committee of the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia, which, thank goodness, is no longer so. We are trying to establish an efficiently operating chancellery based on modern management techniques. In effect, we are trying to provide a service for the president. If the need arises, we analyze particular problems—whether they concern the privatization of the economy or the pasteurization of milk. We must know how to prepare the analysis in a timely manner, draft alternative proposals, and put them forward for consideration. Of course, this must be done by the specialists from the individual sections. Any kind of speculation about a "shadow cabinet" is nonsense.

[Veis] What are your main concerns at the moment?

[Schwarzenberg] First and foremost, they are technical problems. Starting with telephones, then the introduction of computers and a telefacsimile system. There was one here which I brought from Sasha Vondra's apartment. It had been given to him some time ago by the Charter 77 Foundation. It was absurd, but the president's chancellery was like a decorative appendage; now we have to create conditions here in which it will, finally, be possible to work properly. The period of euphoria is behind us, now only work awaits us. [passage omitted]

[Veis] How do you view the problem surrounding our nuclear power plants? You are well aware of the views expressed by the Austrian politicians and public.

[Schwarzenberg] The Austrians are simply afraid. This is understandable, especially when we build nuclear power plants of the Soviet type, because faith in them has declined considerably since Chernobyl. They themselves have announced that they do not want nuclear power plants. I understand why they are afraid following the publication of the NOVE SLOVO [New Word] interview with Engineer Beranek about Jaslovske Bohunice and the DER STANDARD article. However, I also know that they do not envisage the destruction of the Erzgebirge mountain range or the Jizerske mountains; they merely see a danger not far from their own borders.

[Veis] Chancellor Vranitzky is demanding the immediate suspension of operations at Jaslovske Bohunice. We, of course, will suspend the power plant's operations at some point in the future.

[Schwarzenberg] Everyone has wishes about something. Usually they do not come true. I really understand this fear, but I also know what our energy situation is like. [passage omitted]

Nuclear Plant Safety Reevaluated

LD2507152290 Prague CTK in English 1419 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Prague July 25 (CTK)—Safety of Czechoslovak nuclear power plants is being reevaluated at present and will be discussed by the Federal Government tomorrow, Josef Vavrousek, minister in charge of the Czechoslovak Federal Committee for the Environment, told CTK here today.

Minister Vavrousek, who was asked by CTK to comment on the recently published articles in foreign press, above all in the Austrian papers, on safety problems in the

Czechoslovak nuclear power plants, said that the Czechoslovak public will be informed of the results of the government's discussions immediately.

Josef Vavrousek was entrusted with state control over Czechoslovak nuclear power plants safety by the Federal Assembly at its session on July 19, 1990.

More on Legislation Passed by Assembly 19 Jul

AU2507122590 Prague PRACE in Czech 20 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

["kjk"-signed report: "New Laws Passed, Albeit With Difficulties; The Parliament's Session in Prague Continues"]

[Excerpts] Prague—[passage omitted] The fifth joint meeting of the two Federal Assembly chambers approved some legal measures of the Federal Assembly Presidium—the legal measure on some provisions concerning the property of political parties, political movements, and social organizations; the legal measure on the state compensatory allowance; the legal measure on setting border guards and Interior Ministry troops apart from their units to meet the tasks of the Public Security Corps; and a legal measure which changes and amends the law on elections to the Federal Assembly. [passage omitted]

Furthermore, the Federal Assembly considered the draft amendment to the law No. 83 of 1990 on citizens' association. Vladimir Mikule, deputy to the Chamber of Nations for Civic Forum, explained in the name of the group of deputies which tabled this draft that it is necessary to modify the principle of the registration of trade union organizations as stipulated in the law to make the law consistent with the provisions of international pacts on civil and political rights and on economic, social, and cultural rights. Under the convention of the International Labor Office [ILO], employees and employers alike may without any prior consent set up organizations according to their own choice, or become members of such organizations, under a single condition—that they subordinate themselves to the statutes of these organizations. In line with the long-term ILO practice, trade union organizations may be set up on the basis of the mere agreement among employees on their formation.

The proposed amendment to the law on citizens' association will ensure such conditions for Czechoslovak trade union organizations as well. The respective state body will merely take note of their existence; their right to act as a legal entity will be instituted the day after they file their application for registration. This provision also applies to trade union confederations.

Ladislav Roman (Slovak National Party), who acted as joint reporter for the Constitutional and Legal Affairs Committees of the two chambers, recommended that the proposed changes also apply to organizations of employers.

The Federal Assembly approved the draft amendment with this supplementary provision. [passage omitted]

Communique on 19 Jul Government Session

AU2507151690 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 20 Jul 90 pp 1, 8

[CTK report: "Compensation, Redundancy Payment, Salaries"]

[Text] At its meeting yesterday, the Government of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic [CSFR] approved a proposal to raise the compensation for; the increased food bills of citizens requiring special diets, redundancy payment for laid-off employees, and the draft amendment of the law on citizens' association. It recommended to the Federal Assembly to give its consent to the agreement on trade relations with the United States and discussed a number of other material.

The allowance compensating for the increased food bill of citizens who suffer from diseases requiring costly diets will have the character of a social payment—contribution to a special diet—which will be granted to socially needy citizens in a differentiated way. In connection with the increase in the prices of food, the contributions to special diets have already been raised by 50 korunas a month. This increase has proved to be insufficient, however. These payments will therefore be raised by an additional 150 to 270 korunas a month. In the one-member household of a diabetic, for instance, this payment will be fixed so that his total income reaches a minimum of 1,600 korunas a month. The greatest increase will concern some 3,000 to 3,500 ill children. The sum needed to secure nutrition and other personal needs of children under six years of age will be raised from 830 to 1,100 korunas a month and the equivalent sum for children between six and ten years of age from 930 to 1,200 korunas a month. The minister of labor and social affairs will secure the issuance of the relevant legal provisions concerning compensation for the increased food bills of socially needy citizens requiring special diets. These provisions will come into effect on 1 August 1990.

The CSFR Government approved principles, under which the existing legal regulations governing the material security of employees laid off because of organizational changes will be supplemented by a new form—the redundancy payment [odstupne]. The redundancy payment, which can reach a maximum of five times the average monthly earnings, will be paid by organizations requiring employees leave the organization immediately. These employees will terminate their contract of employment by agreement within a month after being notified by their employer organization that they are redundant. An employee who receives the redundancy payment will not be entitled to material security in the form of compensatory wages [offsetting difference between the old and new earnings] according to valid regulations. If the laid off employee fails to find a new job or if he participates in a retraining program provided for by the national committee, he will be entitled to unemployment benefits [prispevek pred nastupem do zamestnani] only after the expiration of the period for which he had received the redundancy payment.

The government further approved the agreements between the CSFR and the Swiss Confederation and between the CSFR and the FRG on support for and mutual protection of investments. The CSFR has already concluded similar agreements with Belgium, Great Britain, and Austria. The Federal Government thus becomes a guarantor for foreign investors that a possible change in the internal legislation will not endanger their capital investments, which had happened in the past.

Such contractual guarantees are an extraordinary matter in international economic relations and reflect the endeavor of Western partners to hedge against the risks inherent in the changeable situation in Central and Eastern Europe. The decision of the Federal Government [to approve agreements on protection of investments] at the same time cancels government resolution No. 165 of 1990, which has so far limited the transfer of profits and trade payments to 20 percent of the invested foreign capital. With the introduction of the internal convertibility of the koruna, planned for the beginning of next year, this limitation will lose its justification. Enterprises will be duty bound to offer all their foreign exchange funds [for sale] to the state. In turn, the state will give them the guarantee that they will be able to purchase on the foreign exchange market for korunas all the foreign exchange funds they need. The obligation to offer foreign exchange [for sale] to the state will also concern joint ventures with foreign participation.

The government also approved the draft agreement between the governments of the CSFR and the United States on trade in certain steel products, which follows up on a similar contractual agreement which expired on 30 September 1989. The agreement concerns a voluntary restriction of exports [autolimitacni dohoda]; it does not, however, interfere with the existing volume of our exports. Through this practice, the U.S. Government protects the domestic steel industry. The United States has concluded similar agreements with all countries exporting steel to the United States. The agreement is to be in force until 31 March 1992. As of 1 April 1992 imports of steel products to the United States are to be fully deregulated.

The government recommended that the Federal Assembly express its approval with the agreement on trade relations with the United States, which had been negotiated in Washington, in April of this year. This agreement—concluded for the period of three years and containing the possibility of automatic extension for another three years—will, undoubtedly, become a milestone in the development of economic relations between the United States and the CSFR. The United States is extending most favored nation status to Czechoslovakia which it had withdrawn in 1951. The CSFR will attain, therefore, an equitable position and treatment on the U.S. market. With the aim of creating space and providing guarantees for mutually beneficial economic cooperation, the Czechoslovak side undertakes to make needed changes to its legal regulations. At issue are, for example, the regulations for the protection of intellectual property and for the protection of trade secrets, and the maximum simplification of regulations governing tourism and enterprise. In order to become valid, the agreement must also be approved by the U.S. Congress.

To remove some misunderstandings related to the establishment of trade union organizations and to eliminate the doubts about the conformity of the above mentioned law with the Convention of the International Labor Office, the government expressed its positive standpoint on the draft amendment to the law on citizens' association. The law will emphasize that a trade union organization is merely registered by the state organs and that its right to take part in legal relations—that is, to act as a legal person—will begin the day after the proposal for its registration has been delivered to the pertinent ministry.

The CSFR Government also adopted a standpoint on the draft law on deputies' salaries and perquisites, which had been presented by a group of Federal Assembly deputies.

The government stated that the proposed level of salaries and perquisites goes beyond the present framework of our economic and legal system. This would create such disproportions between the income level of deputies and other citizens, including members of the government, as would be unacceptable in a situation when even the solutions to recognized social problems and remuneration of the workers in the tertiary sphere (education, health care) must be postponed.

The government, therefore, recommends that the basic level of deputies' salary be approximately twice the average monthly earning in the CSFR.

The salary of the Federal Assembly officials should be so graded as to correspond to the levels of salaries paid to the future state administration officials and members of the government.

Law on Asylum in CSFR Under Preparation

AU2507190590 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 24 Jul 90 p 8

[CTK report: "A Right to Asylum in the CSFR"]

[Text] Prague—Due to its political changes and extensive liberalization, the CSFR is experiencing an international movement of individuals. However, because of its geographical location, it is also becoming attractive to certain foreign nationals. This situation makes it necessary to establish an adequate code in the CSFR, in relation to the appropriate international agreements, utilizing worldwide experiences and containing all the legal, organizational, social, health care, financial, and other obligations.

Therefore, in the next few days the federal government will discuss the course of action to be taken by the organs of state administration in this area. It has been proposed that a commissioner for refugee issues be appointed who will prepare practical solutions to the cases that have arisen recently and who will commence work on the comprehensive legal revision of these suggestions. The necessary personnel, financial, and material resources should be provided to implement this policy.

It is also envisaged that in his activity the commissioner will cooperate with the organs of state administration as well as make use of contacts with interested citizens' associations, especially with the Red Cross and others.

New Federal Control Ministry Functions Outlined

LD2407171790 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1000 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] [Announcer] Here is a telephone dispatch by Miroslav Konvalina from the news conference with Federal Minister of Control Kvetoslava Korinkova. The federal government minister briefed the newsmen at the conference about the functioning of the new ministry, which has replaced the People's Control Committee.

[Konvalina] At issue is not simply the change of name, from the Federal People's Control Committee to the Federal Ministry of Control. The change lies in the overall conception. The previously collective central body of the government is becoming a monocratic central government body and thus, breaking with past custom, the minister is able to make independent decisions on individual inspections without discussion with representatives of other central specialized bodies. Its authority is also further enhanced by the change in the aim of the control. The control of the fulfillment of the government's resolutions and specific tasks of the state plan is being dropped. Controlled in the future will be, above all, the adherence to legal and economic norms and to the principles and policies set for the management of central bodies and for the enterprise sphere in places where state funds are used. Experience shows that a powerful control activity, both in the level of central bodies and in individual forms of enterprise, is exactly what should be ensured in the new democratic and legal state. Among other things at issue will be the supervision of environmental protection, consumer protection, and the protection of the good name of Czechoslovak goods abroad. On the contrary, the controlling activity of the Federal Ministry of Control does not include the activity of political parties, political movements, civic associations, cooperatives, and other nonstate organizations, if they do not use state funds.

As Kvetoslava Korinkova, the federal minister of control, stressed at today's news conference that the competence law passed by the Federal Assembly last week also envisages more extensive forms of cooperation with parliament, with its individual committees, and with parliamentary commissions.

Changes in Building Industry, Ministries Outlined

AU2407144490 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 20 Jul 90 p 2

[CTK report: "Ministries of Public Projects?"]

[Excerpts] Ludvik Motycka and Jozef Dubnicek, the ministers of construction and building industry of the Czech Republic and the Slovak Republic, respectively, met yesterday to coordinate their course of action. They exchanged information on the course of deconsolidation, which involves chiefly the transfer of manufacturing organizations operating in the building sector (brickworks, cement works, etc.) to the sphere of competence of the two ministries of industry. This process will be carried out by 1 August. From the beginning of next year, the two ministries will concentrate on capital construction, primarily on projects exceeding the national framework. [passage omitted] Other types of construction, including housing construction, will be the responsibility of cities, villages, and other investors who have enough capital. The two ministers pin great hopes on the continuing process of denationalization and demonopolization. For instance, the 77 large building enterprises which operated in the Czech Republic in 1989 have been subdivided into 366 organizations, most of which are state enterprises or joint stock companies. However, the trend toward larger-scale privatization can also be seen. This trend is hampered by unclear regulations and missing legislation. A change in the name of the two ministries is also being considered as the present one is becoming pointless. The most plausible new name would be "Ministry of Public Projects."

Border Police To Be Established by End of 1992

LD2507140390 Prague CTK in English 1255 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Prague July 25 (CTK)—Representatives of the Czechoslovak Border Guard Command told newsmen today that a 2,000- member professional "border police" corps will have been set up by the end of 1992 to protect Czechoslovakia's state borders.

This corps will substitute for the present Czechoslovak Border Guard made up of 11,000 soldiers undergoing military service. Since the close of 1989 their number has been decreasing from 15,000 to total 6,000 next year. Almost two-thirds of them protected the Czechoslovak border with Austria and the FRG, and also two-thirds of the Border Guard budget were allocated to the protection of these borders.

Czechoslovak Border Guard Commander Major-General Stanislav Pokorny said that the effort to place border protection on a professional footing is linked with the endeavour to improve border protection against smugglers and terrorists. So far, the Czechoslovak Border Guard protection the borders mainly with Austria and the FRG against emigration of Czechoslovak citizens.

Mr Pokorny stated that 2,900 people trying to illegally cross the Czechoslovak border were detained in the seven months of this year. some 915 persons managed to get to Austria and West Germany but local authorities returned them to Czechoslovakia. The attempts of groups of Kurds, Vietnamese, Syrians, Turks and Bangalees to get illegally to Austria and the two German states cause problems on the borders just as increasing alcohol and cigarette smuggling. In south Slovakia also drug trafficking from the Balkans appears. Moreover, Romanians and Soviet citizens illegally cross the Czechoslovak border to escape the bad economic situation in their countries, Stanislav Pokorny said.

He appreciated the current Czechoslovak-Austrian talks on cooperation in protecting their common border and pointed out the proposal of Austrian Minister of the Interior Karl Blecha to form mixed border guards.

Major-General Pokorny mentioned the removal of barriers from the Czechoslovak borders with Austria and the FRG, being now completed, and the regulation under which Czechoslovak Border Guard members can use their guns only in case of self-protection.

In the past the Czechoslovak borders were protected in line with the law on protection of the state borders of July 11, 1951 which resulted in the creation of special military units "Border Guard". They defended mainly Czechoslovakia's border with Austria and the FRG in order to prevent emigration of Czechoslovak citizens. At the time of social reforms in Czechoslovakia in 1968, the Border Guard Command proposed to remove barriers from the country's western border. A similar initiative was proposed in the 1970's as well. Only the gentle revolution in Czechoslovakia in November 1989 made it possible to remove the barriers from the country's western border, Mr Pokorny said, adding that the majority of them have been removed and the rest, technically the oldest, will be taken away from the western border by November 1990.

Civic Forum Seeks State-Wide Operation

AU2507134990 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 23 Jul 90 p 1

["CTK"-signed report: "On the Future Form of Civic Forum"]

[Text] Prague—The most important item on the agenda at republican assembly of Civic Forum, held on Saturday [21 July] in Prague, was the proposal on its future structure. The managerial network of Civic Forum and the position of the managers in terms of their employee relationship to Civic Forum, its registration or "non-registration," i.e., eventual membership dues for Civic Forum supporters, netted the majority of comments during the debate. The delegates from North Moravia, for instance, categorically rejected any dues collection. Western Bohemia and Prague suggested the payment of voluntary contributions. Many comments concerned the Civic Forum Collegium, which should be the highest political body in the period between the republican Assembly sessions. The South Moravia delegates, for instance, wondered why the collegium is conceived so broadly and why is it not an elected body. They demanded that the number of its members be lowered from 25 to a maximum of 16 and that one half of them be composed of representatives from the regions of Bohemia, Moravia, and Silesia. Speaking on the proposal on the future form of the Civic Forum Coordinating Center Council, Jan Stern, Jr., said that under no circumstance does Civic Forum want to contribute to the splitting of our state; rather the opposite, it wants to seek ways of proceeding naturally to state-wide operation.

This view met with a positive response from the plenum.

Vojtech Sedlacek was elected head of the Republican Civic Forum Coordinating Center. Although the new structure of the movement will be definitively decided only by the Assembly in August, it is already obvious now that Civic Forum preserves its open and democratic character. The Assembly passed a resolution that Civic Forum followers be registered thereby guaranteeing the legitimacy of the movement as well as the legitimacy of its nominees for the upcoming local elections. For the time being, however, the Assembly delegates rejected the suggestion to introduce registration fees. The managerial network will be transferred fully to the jurisdiction of the district civic forums.

Civic Forum Centralization Proposal Criticized

AU2507165090 Bratislava VEREJNOST in Slovak 24 Jul 90 p 2

[Jozef Ruttkay commentary: "Who Is in Favor of Such Centralization....]

[Text] According to LIDOVE NOVINY of 23 July, the suggestion made by Jan Stern to seek ways in the Civic Forum "of engaging in nationwide activity" met with a favorable response at the Civic Forum republican session held in Prague on 21 July. The session had been convened to discuss an organizational proposal for the Civic Forum's future. Mr. Stern, who spoke at the session on behalf of the Civic Forum Coordinating Center, does not understand why "this movement should limit itself nationally." So that there is no misunderstanding, the LIDOVE NOVINY article states that Mr. Stern sees no reason why Slovaks should not be represented in the movement along with Czechs and Moravians.

We hope that at the next republican session, which is to take place in a month's time, Mr. Stern's suggestion will be addressed more appropriately. We do not see any reason why the Civic Forum should engage in "nationwide activity" since our civic movements neither evolved nor, subsequently, became established as structures—mechanically or ostensibly—to demonstrate the unity of our interests and composition.

The Public Against Violence [VPN] movement is not, and cannot be, a mirror image of the Civic Forum. Also, the VPN has yet to be declared—according to our information—an organization which Czech citizens living in Slovakia could not join in the form of various special interest movements.

The proposal put forward by Stern arouses the suspicion that the Civic Forum holds the reins of centralization which, as past experiences have proven, is not—and cannot—benefit either of one side or one state-forming people or nationality. Never mind what the VPN constituted in East or Central Slovakia after 17 November; prior to the elections, the VPN movement ran with a significantly well-outlined and clear program which won over the voters. Now it is essential that the program be fufilled.

The proposals made public by Civic Forum representatives detract from these efforts and, moreover, cast doubts on the VPN's program "A Chance for Slovakia," a program in which any Czech party or movement could only formulate and with difficulty and under unrealistic circumstances: renewing Slovakia and the Slovak home.

It is true, I see no problem with Slovaks joining the Civic Forum movement alongside Czechs and Moravians. After all, many of them live in the Czech Republic. In our opinion, during the election campaign—and, of course, now—the Civic Forum should have more conspicuously initiated their entry into everyday civic and social life.

In my opinion, that would have been the basis on which it could have been possible to build Czecho-Slovak mutuality and which in the future would have applied to both sides.

Adamec on Party Trends, Political Future

AU2507154590 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 24 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[Vaclav Pergl article: "Three Trends in the Communist Party of Czechoslovakia"]

[Excerpts] Ostrava (From our own correspondent) — Ladislav Adamec, Federal Assembly deputy and Communist Party of Czechoslovakia [CPCZ] chairman, spent his whole day in Ostrava on Monday [23 July] among his constituents. He met with CPCZ district committee chairmen and talked with them about the preparations for the party's 18th congress. He said that the date will be changed from 3 and 4 November 1990. [passage omitted]

L. Adamec described the ideological trends within the party. There are roughly three of them. The reformist one, which is represented primarily by young people inclined to adopt a confederative arrangement for the party, seeks a consistent parting with the past, including personnel questions. They reject the party's present name. The second trend is that of the centrists. They are most numerous. They reject a total negation of the past 40 years and they strive for a firm CPCZ economic program. They espouse Marxism, cleansed of deformations. The third trend are those who do not accept the changes made after 17 November and they stick to dogmatic ideals. [passage omitted]

L. Adamec was also asked whether he really means to leave the political scene. He responded that at the CPCZ extraordinary congress he had accepted the function of the chairman based on the condition that he would stay chairman until the ordinary congress is held. This should have taken place before the elections, however. The party must be led by young people who are not burdened by the past. I can help in this area, if needed. We have even some suggestions, as far as the CPCZ chairman is concerned. I believe that the party will choose well.

Former Senior CPCZ Official Released

AU2507184390

[Editorial Report] Bratislava PRAVDA in Slovak on 24 July on page 2, under the headline "Stanislav Babinsky Has Been Released," carries a 400-word article by Helena Michalicova on the release from prison of Stanislav Babinsky. The report is followed by a short interview with Dr. Harald Stiffel, Slovak Republic deputy justice minister.

Babinsky was serving a 14-and-a-half-year prison sentence for the unlawful appropriation of socialist-owned property. He was released for health reasons on 21 July and will remain free until there is a ruling on his appeal for clemency.

In her first question to the deputy justice minister, Michalicova wants to know whether the illnesses suffered by Babinsky were serious enough to warrant his release. According to Stiffel: "The minister acted upon the medical opinion of the Corrective Education Corps Administration medical unit, as well as those of civilian doctors. Stanislav Babinsky had requested an examination from them many times."

In conclusion, Stiffel states that Babinsky still has nine years and eight months left to serve of his sentence. He will be able to make a formal application for parole in May 1991.

Nearly 100 Political Parties in CSFR

AU2507152990 Prague HOSPODARSKE NOVINY in Czech 24 Jul 90 p 2

[CTK report in the "Briefly" column]

[Text] The Assembly of Political Parties, Movements, and Associations in the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic published an address book at the end of the first semester which lists a total of 99 political parties operating in the Czech Republic, the Slovak Republic, and the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic, of which 73 are registered and 26 are not registered with the appropriate ministry of interior.

The next 134 pages give an account of over 500 of the newly-established organizations.

Commentary Views Slovak Striving for Secession

AU2407194190 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 23 Jul 90 p 2

[Karel Hvizdala commentary: "Slovak Paradoxes"]

[Text] The East European train, until recently artificially held back by the ruling abnormality, has, once Mikhail Gorbachev released the brakes, started to move on the old tracks and in the old direction. The Soviet Union is engulfed by anarchy, Germany is evolving into Greater Germany, and the Slovaks harangue against the Czechs. The news reached us from Bratislava on Saturday [21 July] that the main goal of the newly established Slovak National Democratic Movement is to secure spiritual and material well-being for the inhabitants of the Slovak Republic and to achieve its entry into Europe as an independent subject. The majority of the approximately 300 delegates present agreed that the more than 70 years of coexistence in a common bond with Czechs did not work out and that it is necessary to separate, in silence and without stirring up passions or emotions. Apart from reaching this still relatively sober conclusion, the assembly also adopted a somewhat more outlandish statement, in which it proposed the removal of memorials related to the person of President Benes—because of his anti- Slovak policies and crimes connected with the forced resettlement of citizens of German nationality in the prewar and postwar years. But let us return to the introductory metaphor. The Slovak choo-choo train, with which Slovakia is trying to arrive in Europe, is heading in the opposite direction. While tendencies towards unification prevail in Europe, the Slovaks strive for secession. While the world is reaching out for the "chip" future, the Slovaks are engaged in the revision of their history, in the tenacious endeavor to reinforce their identity. Both give the impression of anachronism and paradox, not only to us [Czechs], and can, in fact, only slow down their journey to Europe. Seen through American eyes, for instance, this problem becomes even more serious. In Europe, politics and democracy have not yet been separated from the term nation, and this is only a consequence thereof. After all, the more supranational a state is, the better it is. A seceded Slovakia would, therefore, have to be a worse state.

Czech Government Discusses Taxes, Measures

LD2507205190 Prague CTK in English 1954 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Prague July 25 (CTK)—The Czech Government asked federal Finance Minister Vaclav Klaus today to provide for tax reliefs for ecological programs and small enterprises in the new tax reform which is now being discussed.

The government agreed with the draft at its session today but asked that several of its own proposals be included in it. It demanded such taxes on enterprise that would not discourage foreign companies from doing business in Czechoslovakia. The finance minister was also instructed to start immediately preparing conditions for the work of revenue offices.

The government also widely discussed an amendment to existing legislation on the prices of real estate. As the problem is too complex, only partial changes are being proposed to solve issues which would block the development of market relations in some fields. The government approved the proposed changes in the level of real estate prices and stressed that farm land will be priced according to quality.

In an effort to ensure quick implementation of the law on judicial rehabilitation and other urgent tasks the Czech Government allowed retired prosecutors and prosecution investigators to accept full-salaried terminated jobs while receiving full old-age pension. Normally, old-age pensioners are allowed to earn only a limited amount of money if they are to receive full old-age benefits.

Environment Minister Beldrich Moldan reported on steps against water pollution last year and was asked to propose measures to improve water protection. Interior Minister Tomas Hradilek informed the government of the crime rate in Prague and announced that at the end of next month he would submit a program to improve security in the capital and the whole of the national republic.

Czech Construction Minister on Tasks, Goals

LD2407202590 Prague Domestic Service in Czech 1630 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Summary] Ludvik Motycka, Czech minister for construction and the building industry, spoke at a news conference in Prague about the results and further prospects for his department. Barbora Tacheci asked him for an interview following the news conference:

"[Begin recording] [Tacheci] Mr. Minister, it appears that demonopolization in your department is going a bit faster than in other departments. Up to 1 January, your department had 83 enterprises, now it has almost 400—to be exact 386. However, the question is if this demonopolization is, in fact, an end in itself—that is, if it was actually reflected in the results of the department for the first half of the current year.

"[Motycka] It certainly cannot be an end in itself. The purpose of this process rests in the fact that it is the first step toward the building industry as a whole being transferred, as soon as possible, to complete privatization, or to the highest degree of privatization.

"[Tacheci] Yes, Mr. Minister, but let us be specific. What were the results of the building industry for the first half of the current year?

"[Motcycka] The profits plan which these enterprises had overall is being overfulfilled by a regular seven percent.

"[Tacheci] However, as we know, according to the results of last year, it was last year that a number of building enterprises struggled with their inability to pay. What is the situation today?

"[Motycka] Yes, some enterprises have these problems today, too. In general, about 30 organizations are not profitable; they show losses. In some enterprises—and there is an overwhelming majority of those—I envisage that up to the end of the year they will overcome these problems and there will even be those that will have to be abolished.

"[Tacheci] Could you say in advance what enterprises these are?

"[Motycka] These cases are unique, in particular in the sphere of Ostrava and Northern Bohemia, to mention some of the fomer large enterprises.

"[Tacheci] You mentioned that demonopolization must be by law some sort of a stepping stone for privatization: That is a direction which we are all concerned about. Nevertheless, LIDOVE NOVINY today has a debate or polemics about whether or not the Czech Government has different views on privatization from the federal government. I ask you as a member of the Czech Government: What does the Czech Government want?

"[Motycka] Quite unequivocally this is apparent from the government statement. The Czech Government thus fully supports the privatization process.

"[Tacheci] One can say that organizationally you agree fully with the federal government in the planned rates of privatization?

"[Motycka] I think that the Czech Government would carry out the privatiztion process even faster if legislative affairs made it possible.

"[Tacheci] The last question, Mr. Minister: By 1 August this year, the main part of the production of building materials will go under the Ministry of Industry of the Czech Socialist Republic. Previously this production was under your ministry. Do we understand that you are building a new concept of the Ministry of Construction and the Building Industry as a prospective Ministry of Public Labor?

"[Motycka] This is connected with two questions. First, the one you talked about; that is, that the Ministry of Industry and Building Industry should be formed into a new central organ— an organ that has a working term used today as the Ministry of Public Labor. But the second thing which has to be borne in mind is that the central organs will not direct industrial enterprises and will not interfere directly in the process of production—what will be produced; how they will orientate themselves. One central organ in the entire Czech Government will be sufficient for this kind of management and that should be the Ministry of Industry—so that all industrial production should be concentrated in this organ of state administration. [end recording]"

Slovak Government Appointment Changes

AU2507141590 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 18 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[NARODNA OBRODA report: "More Effective Motivation by Parents"]

[Text] Bratislava—A session of the Government of the Slovak Republic took place in Bratislava yesterday.

It appointed the following new Slovak Republic Government Presidium: Vladimir Meciar—premier; Jan Carnogursky—first deputy premier; Jozef Kucerak, Vladimir Ondrus, Gabor Zaszlos—deputy premiers; Michal Kovac—minister of finance and prices; Anton Andras—minister of interior; Jan Holcik—minister of industry; Jozef Belcak—minister of the economy.

It approved a new composition of the Legislative Council of the Slovak Republic. Gabor Zaszlos, deputy premier of the Slovak Republic, became its chairman; Ladislav Kosta, minister of justice of the Slovak Republic, its deputy chairman; and Stefan Grman, director of the Legislative Department of the Government Office of the Slovak Republic, its secretary. Next, the government dealt with the report on the fulfillment of the Slovak Republic Government's legislative tasks in the first half of 1990. In the second half of 1990, the Slovak government is to debate almost 100 proposals of various legal norms.

It named the Government Council of the Slovak Republic for Information Policy and Mass Media as its coordinating, initiating, and consultative body. Jan Carnogursky, first deputy premier of the Slovak Republic, is its chairman; Ladislav Snopko, minister of culture, is the first deputy chairman; Jan Comaj, director of the Press and Information Department of the Slovak Government Office is the deputy chairman; and Ivan Zary, deputy director of this department became the Council's secretary. The main mass media; the Journalists Syndicate; trade unions; journalistic research, education, and the seven political parties and movements with seats in the Slovak National Council are represented in this Council. The main task of the Council will be to initiate and form legislative, organizational, personnel, fiscal, technical, and other conditions for an independent, but at the same time constitutionally operating, mass information media, and preparation for the establishment of the State Committee for Information Policy and Mass Media.

It acknowledged the present economic situation in the state enterprises of the Ministry of Construction and the Building Industry of the Slovak Republic and tasked the minister with taking appropriate measures for an economic consolidation of selected enterprises.

Further, the government dealt with three documents which are presented for a debate in the Federal Government session by Petr Miller, CSFR minister of labor and social affairs.

With some reservations, the government acknowledged the provisions for the labor market. The changes in the structure of our economy and the transition to the market economy will, as of 1991, bring about unemployment at an expected level of five to six percent, i.e., 400 to 500,000 people. A substantial part of this unemployment should be temporary (approximately no less than half a year, no more than one year). It will be necessary, however, to create new effective jobs. The detrimental impact on the population will be diminished by labor exchanges, an extensive retraining system providing the opportunity to flexibly react to the job supply, by providing a financial advantage to socially useful jobs, as well as by organizing work beneficial to the public (eg. investment ventures by local bodies).

It agreed, with some reservations, with the draft principles for introducing the retirement income indexation system. The starting point for the retirement income indexation is the necessity to reflect in the pension payments the development of minimal wages and the subsistence minimum of the socially weakest population groups.

The purpose of the indexation is to preserve the ratio of the retirement income to the working wages. The first indexation could, according to the expectations, take place as of 1 November 1991.

The government agreed with the Federal Assembly bill on paternal allowance with reservations as specified by the standpoint of the Legislative Council of the Slovak Republic secretariat and in the government debate. The bill provides, in comparison to the hitherto legal codification of the so-called maternal allowance, better conditions for an all-day personal care for a young child in the natural family environment. It is more effective in this respect than the former one in its motivation of the parents. (The bill specifies the sum of 900 korunas [per month] until the child is three years old, in case of long-term physical disability until the age of six. The Government of the Slovak Republic proposes an allowance of 1,200 korunas.) The bill does not distinguish between men and women and neither the amount nor the length of the payments depends on the number of children in the family.

The government also dealt with the serious situation in the fuel supply related to the decreased crude oil deliveries from the USSR in the second half of 1990. The cuts in deliveries are caused by not meeting the planned quotas in crude oil production and by economic difficulties of the supplier. In an extensive debate, the government discussed the material which had been prepared on the topic by the Federal Government session. It endorsed the lowest proposed increase in the retail prices of gasoline and diesel fuel. The final decision will be made by the CSFR Government.

The Government discussed a number of personnel issues.

It recalled Engineer Jozef Belcak, minister of the economy of the Slovak Republic and Engineer Alexander Palffy, candidate of sciences, from the posts of deputy chairmen of the Slovak Commission for Planning and Scientific-Technological Development. It appointed to the posts of deputy chairmen Prof. Engineer Milan Bucek, doctor of sciences (without political affiliation), and Engineer Stanislav Bahurinsky (Social Democratic Party). It recalled Engineer Juraj Moravcik from the post of the deputy minister of Agriculture and Food of the Slovak Republic and appointed Engineer Jozef Habovstiak, candidate of sciences (Christian Democratic Movement), to this office. It also named Dr. Ladislav Miklos, candidate of sciences (Trend of the Third Millennium party), to the post of the deputy chairman of the Slovak Commission for the Environment.

It recalled Engineer Dominik Kocinger from the post of the deputy minister of forestry, water economy, and the wood-processing industry of the Slovak Republic for the water economy branch and confirmed him in the office of the government commissioner for the construction and operation of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros Hydropower Project at the level of deputy minister, thereby eliminating the practical incompatibility of these two offices in one person. Engineer Augustin Jambor, candidate of sciences (Christian Democratic Movement), has been appointed to the vacated post of the deputy minister. It recalled Engineer Andrej Ebergenyi from the post of the deputy minister of forestry, water economy, and the wood-processing industry of the Slovak Republic, and appointed Engineer Jozef Remis, candidate of sciences (Public Against Violence movement), to this post.

The Government of the Slovak Republic dealt also with some other issues.

Mutual Recriminations Between Slovakia, Hungary

AU2507143290 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 19 Jul 90 p 3

[Martin Hric article: "Once Again on Visit of A. Goncz, president of the Hungarian Republic, to Bratislava; It Was Not Mutual Courting"]

[Text] The press carried a few brief reports on the visit of Arpad Goncz, president of the Hungarian Republic, to Slovakia. Moreover, Premier Vladimir Meciar spoke of it several times. Since a multitude of controversial questions were to have been mutually discussed, we are returning to this significant meeting once more and in a more comprehensive manner.

The Hungarian president, as a believer in a pragmatic approach, proposed that one go from words to deeds. His first proposal was to establish a Slovak-Hungarian commission to analyze common problems and suggest what must be dealt with unilaterally and what unavoidably requires mutual cooperation.

Furthermore, he proposed to establish a cultural center and consulate of the Czech and Slovak Federal Republic in Bekescsaba and a Hungarian equivalent of these institutions in Kosice. They could supervise the realization of the approaches agreed upon.

Moreover, the Hungarian president justified the suspension of the construction of the Gabcikovo-Nagymaros hydroelectric power plant despite the fact that it has already cost the Hungarian government more funds than if the construction were already completed. The president stressed the concerns over the lowering of the underground water level on Rye Island [area along Danube in southern Slovakia] and over the endangering of the drinking-water quality in southern Moravia, western Slovakia, and Transdanubia. He proposed that another independent international expert study be obtained.

Increasing the powers of the Slovak Republic results, according to the Hungarian side, in growing concerns over the Hungarian minority and over the revision of Trianon, i.e. borders, which have hurt the Hungarians. The cutting edge of the border issues can be removed only by a comprehensive guarantee of the collective and individual rights of the Hungarian minority.

From the viewpoint of the integrated Europe, he denoted the borders as a transitory aspect: The free movement of cultural values, information, labor, internationalized education with "convertible" diplomas—the sum of all these phenomena will mean that in the future no Hungarian government will bring up the question of borders. He admitted the existence of nationalism on both sides, believing it to be the consequence of problems not dealt with in the past. The present freedom of the press makes it possible that the nationalist extremes occasionally surpass the borders of hysteria. On the Hungarian side, it also often is a safety valve from the tension caused by the difficult economic situation. He asked that, after a thousand years of coexistence, Slovakia tolerantly comprehend this emotional trauma of the Hungarians (from Trianon).

The Slovak premier articulated our stand very openly.

There is no state in Europe in which the nations are not mixed as a consequence of historical shifts of the borders. Even a border as stable as the Pyrenees between France and Spain has its problem with Basques. Therefore, we must deal with the raised problems in harmony with Europe. As far as the guarantees of group interests of ethnic minorities are concerned, they have been categorically rejected, above all, by the West European countries. For Slovaks, the thousand-year coexistence with Hungarians meant a thousand-year struggle for the preservation of their national identity. The past had many dark pages, which still await processing by historians.

The Hungarian minority in Slovakia has the constitutional guarantee of all the rights other citizens have. It has its representatives in the highest state bodies. It enjoys all rights stipulated in international agreements. On the other hand, we would welcome it, as a goodwill gesture and as a demonstration of the credibility of Hungary's interest in dealing with these questions, if the first steps were taken toward improving the conditions of Slovaks in Hungary—as long as there are still some of them there.

We can speak of the purpose of Slovak-Hungarian borders but not of their location. If a Hungarian representative announces that he represents 15 million Hungarians, it is an absolutely unacceptable interference with the sovereignty of the neighboring states. Hungarians in Slovakia have and will continue to have their representatives in Prague and Bratislava.

Premier Vladimir Meciar also expressed to his partner serious reservations about the interference of Hungarian Television in our elections. We allotted broadcast time to individual parties and movements with a precision to a minute in order to guarantee equality and impartiality. Nevertheless, the Hungarian television that can be received in southern Slovakia interferes with hours of broadcasts disparaging the Independent Hungarian Initiative and benefitting another party.

As far as Gabcikovo is concerned, even if it were not used to produce power, we have an obligation to guarantee navigational conditions as an extension to the Danube-Rhine canal, which is under construction. The reservoirs of drinking water in Moravia and the Rye Island are our problem and not a Hungarian problem. The completion of the project at a cost of 2 billion [korunas] certainly involves a lesser risk. Should the ecologists' fear prove justified, we may lose these 2 billion and the project will not be put into operation. If, on the other hand, the construction of Gabcikovo is not completed on the basis of questionable concerns, we will certainly lose 15 billion [korunas].

The Slovak premier stressed that we would welcome it if the Hungarian side were to cease accentuating the ethnic problem and put emphasis on economic, cultural, and commercial cooperation. West Europe is a present-day reality, while the strong Soviet Union is a question of the future. As small states, we must jointly seek our place and a modus vivendi among the large integrations. We will succeed better with mutual understanding. The nationalist tendencies on the part of Hungarian Television have evoked, however, nationalist passions even in northern Slovakia, where Hungarians are a rare sight.

Czechs, Slovaks Exchange Recriminations

AU2507211490

[Editorial Report] Czechoslovak newspapers on 24 July continue to publish articles on the latest Czech-Slovak controversy, stirred by two recent events—the announcement of an "all-Slovak tribute" to Andrej Hlinka, a controversial personality of Slovak history, and the newly formed Slovak National Democratic Movement's demand that all memorials in Czechoslovakia linked to Edvard Benes, the [Czech] former president of Czechoslovakia, be removed.

Prague SVOBODNE SLOVO in Czech on 24 July on page 1 carries a 200-word CTK report entitled "Once Again on A. Hlinka." The report states that "at its regular session in Bratislava, the leadership of the Czechoslovak Socialist Party [CSS] in Slovakia considered the situation that has arisen in the wake of the publication of the SVOBODNE SLOVO commentary on the invitation to an all-Slovak tribute to A. Hlinka. It noted that the standpoint of the editorial office published by SVOBODNE SLOVO the next day is insufficient and that the published biography of A. Hlinka distorts his civic profile and ignores the credit which this significant personality of the Slovak nation, who endorsed the idea of Czech-Slovak mutuality as early as 1907, deserves." The Slovak CSS leadership's statement goes on to say that, by its articles on Andrej Hlinka, SVOBODNE SLOVO "misused the trust" of Slovak members of the CSS "in order to foment national intolerance between Czechs and Slovaks. The CSS leadership in Slovakia therefore demands that the SVOBODNE SLOVO publisher and editorial office be held publicly accountable for this case."

On the same day, on page 4, SVOBODNE SLOVO carries a 250-word "em"-signed commentary entitled "A Flash of Lightning Over the Tatra." The commentary deals with the program of the newly founded Slovak National Democratic Movement, accusing it of nationalism. The commentator also takes issue with the movement's demand that all Benes plaques and memorials throughout the country be removed. He says: "There is something sad about the obsessive-compulsive conviction of parts of the Slovak nation that they have been wronged and unappreciated during their 70 years of coexistence with Czechs. Well, not exactly. After all, there were also the five years of the Slovak State [1939-45] when they supposedly enjoyed prosperity. Oh, my dear Slovak brothers, sometimes I feel like bursting into tears over some of you because, at this moment, no one can convince you about the aberrant nature of your ideas. It is pointless to try to convince you that Dr. Benes was no bestial criminal. Likewise, you will not believe that Europe and the world will not applaud the balkanization of our country and that by your craving for independence you will cause Europe, but primarily yourselves, a great many problems, of which the economic ones need not even be the worst." In concluding, the SVOBODNE SLOVO commentator appeals to Slovaks "to realize that you are no Lithuania" and predicts that the newly founded Slovak National Democratic Movement "will yet complicate the lives of all of us."

Prague LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE in Czech on 24 July on page 4 carries a 500-word "b"-signed article entitled "Common Sense Instead of Emotions." The article deals with the divergent assessment of Andrej Hlinka and Edvard Benes in the Czech lands and in Slovakia. As it points out, LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE has been receiving phone calls from its readers "taking exception" to the fact that the [Slovak] Christian Democratic Movement, the coalition partner of the Czechoslovak People's Party, "stands up for Andrej Hlinka." The article also observes that the demand of the Slovak National Democratic Movement for the removal of Benes memorials "looks a bit like 'an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.' You objected to [the installation of a memorial tablet to former Slovak president Jozef] Tiso, so we protest against Benes." The LIDOVA DEMOKRACIE article pleads that the evaluation of Hlinka's and Benes's historical role be left to historians. It stresses that "emotions are harmful" and that the Czechs and Slovaks should "seek what unites us as nations, groups, as well as individuals, otherwise we will scarcely solve our internal problems and will bring shame upon ourselves abroad."

Appeal Over 'Deep Crisis' in Health Service

LD2407211290 Prague Television Service in Czech 1730 GMT 24 Jul 90

["Appeal" by unidentified speaker—live or recorded]

[Text] Esteemed fellow citizens, allow me to express my feelings caused by the state of our health service. The health service is in a deep crisis. Fundamental reform, which must begin this autumn, is unavoidable. Today I would like to speak about the pressing shortage of funds. So far we have not succeeded in convincing our public about something which citizens in considerably richer countries do not doubt: Expenditure on the health service represents a considerable burden on every government; it is necessary for those who are better off or those who feel joint responsibility for their fellow citizens experiencing hardship to contribute according to their means to some areas of the health service and social care.

Following an agreement with the [Czech] minister of labor and social affairs, Mr. Horalek, I would like to defend the right, or even the duty, of some of our fellow citizens to participate in the creation of a fund intended for charitable aims in the area of health and social care. We do not think that Kcs 1,680 annually donated by a twentieth [?figure indistinct] thousands of citizens who can give up the equalization grant [grant awarded by the government to ease the impact of price rises], or who are able to give larger sums, represents a completely negligible sum. Forty million Kcs will enable both ministries to begin a program for which there is not enough money. We have agreed to set up a fund—Person in Hardship [Clovek v nouzi]—and we appeal to our public to contribute to the fund according to their means.

A management and supervisory council will make decisions about the use of the fund, represented in which as well as the two ministries will be charitable organizations which are coming into being and associations of physically handicapped citizens.

Social Democrats, Socialists Form Local Coalitions

AU2507154190 Prague RUDE PRAVO in Czech 24 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[CTK report: "They Recommend Local Coalitions"]

[Excerpts] Prague—In Prague on Monday [23 July] representatives of the Czechoslovak Social Democratic Party [CSSD] and the Czechoslovak Socialist Party [CSS] held talks about the current political situation. [passage omitted]

The CSSD and CSS representatives are recommending to their members the formation of local coalitions in the local elections; according to specific conditions, local coalitions may also be formed with other democratic political parties. Both parties have stated that they will establish permanent contacts at all levels, contacts which should contribute to the discussion of serious issues and to the constant verification of possibilities for their joint course of action.

Program of New Slovak Nationalist Movement

AU2407193990 Bratislava NARODNA OBRODA in Slovak 23 Jul 90 pp 1,2

[Dagmar Kristoficova article: "Slovakia for Slovaks: A New Party With National Program"]

[Text] Bratislava—The need for a comprehensive and specific national and democratic policy led some 200 representatives of the Stur Society, the Independent Party of Slovaks, and the Slovak National Party to conceive a political group capable of asserting the real and justified interests of Slovakia.

It was symbolic that the constituent meeting of the Slovak National Democratic Movement [Slovenske narodnodemokraticke hnutie] (SNDH) in Bratislava was held on 21 July, the day of the 110th anniversary of M. R. Stefanik's birth. The movement was established with the aim of creating in the Slovak Republic a unifying political force that would secure the spiritual and material well-being of all Slovaks regardless of religious belief and worldview. According to its statutes, the SNDH is a movement for democracy, humanism, patriotism, and identity of the Slovak nation; for the real implementation of human and civil rights and liberties; for the principles of a law-governed state; and for a dynamic economic, social, and cultural development of sovereign Slovakia in the unified system of European states and nations. Two goals, in particular, are accentuated in the movement's programmatic statement—the entry of the Slovak Republic on the scene of international politics as an independent subject and the adoption of a new constitution of the Slovak Republic. The assembly adopted a statement on the present situation, in which it demands, apart from the codification of Slovak as the sole official and state language, a solution to the problems of ethnic minorities, the averting of the assimilation of Slovaks, as well as "the removal of plaques and memorials linked to the person of former President E. Benes until the clarification of his share in the crimes against and genocide of the German population in postwar years, assimilationist policies against Slovaks, his role in the destruction of the first Czech Republic, and his collaboration with communists."

[Bratislava SMENA in Slovak on 23 July on page 2 carries a 300- word unattributed report on the above meeting stating that "several speakers explicated the need for a separate Slovak state. Paraphrasing a dictum by (prewar Slovak nationalist politician) Andrej Hlinka, Ernest Deak, LLD., for example, said that 'the 72-year-long marriage with the Czechs did not work out; we must separate.'"]

Slovak Democratic Front Established

LD2507161890 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1501 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Prague, July 25 (TANJUG)—Two new political movements have been formed which will work for Solvakia to become a "sovereign, autonomous and independent state."

The Slovak National Democratic Front, formed jointly by the nationalist [word indistinct] society and the Independent Party of Slovaks, demands that, as the first step towards full independence, Slovak be proclaimed the "only state and official language" in Slovakia.

The movement also demands that the republican assembly assume "all powers," including those which have been "usurped by the federal government and the president of the republic."

The Movement for Independent Slovakia calls on Slovaks to "awaken from political lethargy," so that Slovakia could as soon as possible achieve full independence.

'Movement for Independent Slovakia' Founded

LD2407204790 Bratislava Domestic Service in Slovak 1630 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] A new national Movement For Independent Slovakia has been founded in Slovakia. It is a voluntary independent political organization which identifies itself with democratic, humane, Christian, and cultural traditions of Slovakia, and wants to contribute to their further advancement and implementation.

The aim of the Movement For Independent Slovakia is to support the activity of the bodies of the Slovak National Council, the government of the Slovak Republic, and political and democratic organizations in their effort for a free and independent national state in such a way that the Slovak Republic will become a subject of international law.

Conference Held on Draft Radio, TV Law

LD2407203890 Prague Television Service in Czech 1730 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Jozef Miklosko, deputy premier of the federal government, today convened a conference on the preparation of the law on radio and television broadcasting in the CSFR. Present at the meeting were representatives of the federal government, the governments of the Czech and Slovak Republics, the Czech and Slovak National Councils, directors of television and radio, and officials of the government Presidium. The state of work on the draft law on radio and television broadcasting, which is to be presented to the Federal Assembly after the holidays, was discussed at the meeting. An agreement on the expected formation of Czech and Slovak television, and Czech and Slovak radio, was confirmed, which will be dealt with by relevant laws of the Czech and Slovak National Councils. The participants also exchange views on the existence of private and independent television and radio stations.

Commentary Calls for Mass Media Demonopolization

AU2407191290 Prague MLADA FRONTA in Czech 21 Jul 90 p 2

[Pavla Mateju commentary: "Will the Government's Monopoly Collapse?"]

[Text] The monopoly on political power has collapsed. However, the entrenched centralized method of organizing the institutions that faithfully and reliably served the single omnipotent party is only collapsing very slowly. This is particularly noticeable, for example, in the area of mass information media. The most influential mass media, Czechoslovak Television and Czechoslovak Radio, are in the hands of one institution—the government. The press has become ideologically differentiated. This polarization will certainly continue in front of the readers. However, it is high time—if not five minutes after midnight—for television viewers and radio listeners to be given a choice.

Why are there no broadcasts from a television or radio studio not controlled by the state? Does the government perhaps want to hang on for as long as possible to its monopoly over both information channels? It is true that the preparation of new laws on Czechoslovak Radio and Czechoslovak Television is taking a long time, as F. Pavlicek, radio's central director, complained to journalists at a press briefing on Thursday [19 July]. Both laws will open up the legal barriers preventing the demonopolization of television and radio broadcasts. According to F. Pavlicek, a version which would suffice for the next few years would be enough. However, the government is approaching the problem more thoroughly, and it seems that it would rather take its time over the whole matter. The first version should start being debated next week.

It would be naive to assume that when both laws are adopted dozens of independent stations will begin broadcasting at once. For example, several dozen requests for permits to begin private broadcasting have been lying in the Federal Government Presidium Office for a long time. An interdepartmental commission has been set up which should make decisions on granting a license, according to the broadcast's contents. It will convene for the first time on Tuesday [24 July]. It is probable that similar commissions at lower levels will make decisions on granting regional requests. It only remains for us to hope that "selection" will not take place according to political or ideological criteria and that the commission will not merely be an extended government arm.

Other complications will arise when the interested parties receive their licenses—complications with broadcasting frequencies. The bands in which broadcasts are made in our country are, for the most part, occupied by the military. Freeing these bands is one way, but cable television and radio and their satellite connections would be far more progressive. How and where to find a free frequency is already a problem for communications.

The government's monopoly in television and radio also brings increased tensions within both colossuses. For some time employees have been saying that they have come in from the rain to find themselves standing under the gutters—that is, they have transferred from one dictatorship to another. Therefore, it is important not only for listeners and viewers, but also for employees—and especially for society as a whole—that everyone is given an opportunity to choose for himself.

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GERMAN UNIFICATION

Notice to Readers: *Beginning 30 July, reportage concerning German unification will not be published under the GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC section of the East Europe DAILY REPORT. In order to provide information on the topic in one location for the benefit of our readers, material from the GDR and FRG, as well as other media will be found in the German Unification Attachment to the West Europe DAILY REPORT.*

Meckel Discusses Unification, EC, CEMA

AU2507135190 East Berlin NEUE ZEIT in German 23 Jul 90 p 5

[Report on interview with Foreign Minister Markus Meckel by the DETOURA news agency "immediately before the Paris two-plus-four conference," which started on 17 July; place not given: "German Unification Must Strengthen the European Community"]

[Text] [DETOURA] For various reasons the unification process of the two German states meets with extraordinary interest all over the world. What do you think about the speed of this growing together?

[Meckel] The speed of the German unification process has increased more than I would have wished. On the one hand, since last November it has turned out that this process has developed an unstoppable dynamism of its own, while on the other hand, many things would have had to be done more cautiously. "Growing together" is not possible overnight.

I hope that during the two-plus-four negotiations we will be able to settle the external aspects of unification carefully, reasonably, and in agreement with the interests of all sides involved until the all-German parliamentary elections. Then there will no longer be any obstacle to the unification of the state by the GDR's accession according to Article 23 of the Basic Law.

[DETOURA] Referring to the question of the alliance membership of a united Germany, you basically stated: Yes to integration, but integration into an alliance other than NATO is hard to imagine in the short run. On what preconditions is this statement based?

[Meckel] The GDR Government is of the opinion that, for a transition period until the creation of an all-European security system, the united Germany should belong to a NATO with a clear political line and clear military reforms.

The target of a European state of peace decided upon at the NATO summit complies with our considerations to a certain degree.

[DETOURA] What is the GDR foreign minister's view of the course of EC integration?

[Meckel] For the GDR Government, it is of central importance that German unification be anchored in Europe. The GDR's entry into the EC is not necessary because, with unification according to Article 23 of the Basic Law, the GDR will be integrated into the EC. However, the GDR will have specific problems with this integration. We think that regulations for the transition period and for changes which are limited in time will be required in the sectors of agriculture, the textile and steel industries, transportation, and environmental protection. It is the task of the responsible ministries to define the specific concerns and interests of the GDR, in order to introduce them into the work of the EC Commission. In this context, above all, the social concerns of the GDR people are to be taken into account.

Let me finally point out that, concerning the GDR's growing into the EC, a decisive step was made when the State Treaty and the EC customs law came into force on 1 July 1990.

[DETOURA] What is the degree of consensus with the FRG foreign minister regarding the thesis that the quickly implemented German unification must serve as a catalyst for the European unification process?

[Meckel] There is complete agreement with my counterpart Hans-Dietrich Genscher that German unification must strengthen the community of the Europeans. It must contribute to the overcoming of the division of Europe and the confrontation of the blocs, and promote the CSCE process and the disarmament negotiations. We especially agree on the point that German unification must comply with the security policy interests of our East European neighbors, above all the USSR, Poland, and Czechoslovakia, in the same way as this should be the case with all other European partners of the future Germany.

[DETOURA] How do you assess the present stage of the two-plus-four talks?

[Meckel] Important results have already been achieved at the previous meetings between foreign ministers and officials. This includes the settlement of the border question with Poland, and an agreement on intensified talks between officials on the timetable for the negotiations, and on concepts for a final settlement. Above all, differences of opinion have to be overcome regarding the political-military status of the united Germany, and the date of the annulment of the rights and responsibilities of the four powers. I think that the successful conclusion of the two-plus-four negotiations before the end of the year is in the interests of the Germans and all European states.

[DETOURA] How do you assess your direct cooperation with Hans-Dietrich Genscher, which has been increasingly intensified recently?

[Meckel] In the process of German unification, a close cooperation between the two foreign ministers is, of course, necessary. From my point of view, it is very intensive and cooperative.

[DETOURA] Can you comment yet on the current results of the contact commission's work, which, among other things, has to deal with cooperation between the representations abroad, or their unification and the related personnel problems?

[Meckel] Although the contact commission was only established one month ago, the initial results of its work have been submitted. With a joint directive given to the FRG representations abroad by Minister Genscher, and the GDR mission by me, they were instructed to gradually intensify cooperation on the road to establishing the unity of the two German states, and to show the host countries by their work that both states are preparing for unification.

Meanwhile, several working groups—for example, arms control and disarmament, foreign culture policy, North-South questions, EC issues, and other things—started to coordinate positions in order to reach a uniform stand.

On the whole, it is the task of the commission to submit proposals for foreign policy solutions for the German unification process, of course in accordance with international requirements. In this process many things will be gradually united, while others will continue to exist. Individual questions, such as personnel issues, will then be discussed when the time is ripe. Relevant agreements will certainly have to be made in the second State Treaty. However, personnel questions are not only discussed in our ministry, but other ministries that will be united after unification are affected as well.

[DETOURA] Within the framework of the Warsaw Pact and CEMA, the GDR undertook many obligations. What will become of them in the course of the unification of the two German states?

[Meckel] As long as the GDR exists it will make efforts to fulfill the obligations undertaken by it. However, various follow-up regulations are required. Within the framework of the German unification process, the GDR is currently examining—in bilateral talks with the respective contracting parties—all obligations undertaken, in order to ascertain whether it is possible to continue, modify, or terminate them. The GDR then makes relevant agreements in coordination with the FRG. Regarding the Warsaw Pact, it is undergoing a reform process at present anyway, and the GDR's position will have to be redefined taking into account the results of the two-plus-four negotiations on questions of alliance policy.

At present, the GDR is making the market economy the basis of its relations with the CEMA member states. Concluded contracts are also examined and modified. The purpose of all this is to achieve regulations that are in the interest of the future united Germany and its East European neighbors.

[DETOURA] In several Third World countries the fear is expressed that the German and European unification process, with the investments required for it, will be to the disadvantage of the developing countries. Will the Third World states really be the victims of the unification process?

[Meckel] By no means. From my point of view, the German and European unification process provides opportunities. It is also the objective of the GDR Government's policy to create good foundations to overcome the problems of the Third World, and reduce the accumulated potential for North-South conflicts.

By overcoming confrontation between East and West in Europe, and searching for all-European solutions in the economic and social sectors, we come to a new understanding of the Third World problems, and will increasingly take justice, solidarity, democracy, peace, and freedom as standards for our relations with Third World countries. After all, in a united Europe we Europeans will free our hands to help the people in the Third World better than is possible today—economically as well. Together with our neighbors and partners, we Germans will be leading the commitment to the Third World.

[DETOURA] What are your arguments for again making Berlin the capital of a united Germany?

[Meckel] As a divided city, Berlin was the special symbol of the unnatural division of Germany. Now the city is growing together again, but not without problems. Streets and rails are interrupted, bridges were torn down, and many more separating elements developed where the wall was built almost 29 years ago. For me it is a pleasure and an experience to witness how the people from East and West Berlin are coming together, especially after the border controls were abolished on 1 July.

Berlin, Germany, and Europe are growing together. The political- geographical situation now gives Berlin the opportunity to become the center of a development that strives for overcoming the division of Germany and of Europe. Thus, Berlin can act as a bridge between East and West. But I do not only advocate Berlin as the future German capital, but also as the seat of European institutions, especially the EC or the CSCE process, and possibly even the United Nations.

Gysi Views German Unification, PDS Policies

PM2507105090 Milan L'UNITA in Italian 22 Jul 90 p 11

[Interview with Party of Democratic Socialism Chairman Gregor Gysi by Angelo Bolaffi in Rome; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Bolaffi] Germany will be politically reunified within a year. Elections will be held throughout the country in December. Don't you think that your party's participation could help to divide the left and, objectively speaking, weaken the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD]?

[Gysi] There are many reasons why we want to take part in the elections as an autonomous political force. There are, however, two important reasons. We intend to be a left-wing party, but at the same time to be the spokesman for the specific interests of the former GDR's citizens. Indeed, with the extension to our territory of the Western system, we will see our parties brought completely into line with those in the West. That is one reason why we, together with the Christian Democratic Union [CDU], want the country to be unified after the elections. That will make it possible for elections to be held in our country without the electoral exclusion clause being applied. In West Germany, the SPD has a virtual monopoly on the representation of the left. Previously this situation was rendered possible by using the GDR's existence as a bugaboo. Now, with the unification of the two countries, I think that the left has the chance of producing a national political force alongside and in competition with the SPD. Obviously, all this not only does not rule out the possibility of cooperating where there is agreement, but it will help the SPD itself to abandon its traditional attitude of mediation and compromise. There is also a more general and systemic reason as political scientists would say: our presence will broaden the representative nature of the political system and hence will help the process of integration of forces and movements which would otherwise be tempted by the sectarian and extremist option.

[Bolaffi] But don't you think that this kind of return to "Weimar-type" conditions could undermine the political stability that West Germany has demonstrated in the past 40 years?

[Gysi] There is no doubt that the FRG's system has worked very well, but there are also shortcomings, and there is a potential for dissatisfaction, which we will try to exploit.

[Bolaffi] And what should this new left-wing party be like?

[Gysi] Rather like the Party of Democratic Socialism [PDS]. Joking aside, we have a more radical attitude toward reforms than the SPD. We are more critical of capitalism, and we place great emphasis on the need to democratize social and economic life. There are obviously also many points of contact.

[Bolaffi] This is a fine paradox! The crisis of real communism should turn into a political boomerang for the SPD?

[Gysi] Why? Perhaps you think that Kohl and Lafontaine have some doubts about who will have our votes?

[Bolaffi] How many former Socialist Unity Party of Germany members have remained in the PDS?

[Gysi] About 348,000. With regard to our electoral objectives, we regard any drop below the 18 March results as a defeat.

[Bolaffi] The cold war is over and Germany has become "a united homeland" according to the slogan used by the majority of its citizens. What problems will be caused by this radical change in the European geopolitical balance.

[Gysi] A great many. It involves positive potential but also risks. For instance, it is a unique opportunity to give a decisive impetus to European unification, in which the other East European countries and the Soviet Union itself must be involved. However, the danger is that Germany might be tempted to exploit its economic power to exercise a dominant political role—in other words, a German Europe and not a European Germany. The German and European left must ensure that this does not happen. Second, there is a risk of Eurocentrism: building a Europe that is politically and socially united cannot mean forgetting the problems of the southern part of the planet. And not just for humanitarian or moral reasons. We may bitterly regret not having helped the Third World to overcome its famine.

[Bolaffi] Don't you think that the rapid solution implemented by Chancellor Kohl was the "least German possible" and that a rapid process of unification is the best way of safeguarding the European balance?

[Gysi] That depends. If this is to mean the USSR's isolation, it would be a negative and dangerous situation.

[Bolaffi] But I do not think anybody wants to push the USSR into a corner.

[Gysi] The Germans still need the USSR's approval to achieve unification. This requires compromises. I am not sure that German policy after unification will be the same as the policy which the FRG is now pursuing. The USSR is in a very difficult situation and this forces it to take note of other countries actions. As philosophers would say, there is the "prescriptive force of the fait accompli." [passage omitted]

[Bolaffi] The recent revelations about the support given by the East European governments to terrorist organizations, and particularly the discovery of the cover offered by the Stasi (the former highly feared GDR government's secret police) to members of the Red Army Faction, raise serious questions. Can you give us your interpretation of this connection between the "vanguard of the armed party" and the police apparatus of Honecker and company?

[Gysi] Look, it is as much a mystery to me as for you. If you had asked me that question six months ago, I would have disputed the truth of that scenario with all my strength. Honecker seemed to attach prime importance to one thing: to being internationally recognized and hence, as I thought, he absolutely had to avoid any contact that might damage his statesman's image. I was wrong. The reasons for such behavior still have to be explained. I have three hypotheses. Cover was either given to terrorists to help other friendly international organizations—I am thinking of the Middle East—which were having difficulty in continuing to cover those being sought, or there was something like a political exchange: In other words, for instance, in exchange for help received, the Red Army Faction pledged to leave the GDR in peace. Finally, I think that there is an ideological component. Honecker certainly knew about everything, and we can therefore rule out the possibility that the Stasi and Erich Milke, its head, would venture to take action without receiving his consent. I think that his old "revolutionary's" heart must have been stirred by the terrorists action. The struggle being waged by those boys reminded him of his youth and his career as a communist fighter. Deep down, he probably thought they were fighting "against the multinationals imperialism."

[Bolaffi] But one of the eminences grises of the post-Honecker transitional period was the enigmatic Misha Wolff—the head of East Germany's counterespionage, who was the inspiration for Le Carre's book "The Spy Who Came in from the Cold," and who was thus bound to have a great deal of information about that?

[Gysi] He has already been questioned, but he maintains that he was left completely in the dark, and I am sure that that is true. There was a relevant section of the Stasi which dealt with terrorism and, according to Wolff, its members were the only people who knew these secrets.

[Bolaffi] Clausewitz maintained that war was the continuation of politics by other means. Is it not possible that terrorism was the continuation of the cold war by other means?

[Gysi] Terrorists regard themselves as fighters, and in any event their actions destabilize the capitalist system. This is therefore a plausible interpretation. I just hope that the investigations show that hospitality was only given to "retired" terrorists and that the GDR's territory was not used as an operational base.

[Bolaffi] Who do you think killed Herrhausen, the extremely powerful head of the Deutsche Bank, who obviously inspired the German reunification strategy subsequently implemented by Kohl?

[Gysi] I do not know. It is difficult to establish the truth: For instance, whether that action was the result of the insane strategy of a group of terrorists convinced that they were striking at the heart of the system, or whether it concealed broader plans. What strikes me as very strange is that the FRG secret service never had any hint of the support which the East German government was giving to the Red Army Faction. I think that the surprises are not over. I think we will have to shed full light on the activity of the services so that, irrespective of socialism or capitalism, we can establish control over these secret structures—and you in Italy have had experience of that—which are acting in the shadows, and which inevitably tend to become antidemocratic tools.

USSR Envoy Briefing on Ties, Chemical Weapons

LD2507131790 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1121 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The members of the Western Group of Soviet Armed Forces are striving for good and friendly relations with the citizens of the GDR. This was affirmed by Soviet Ambassador Gennadiy Shikin at a news conference in Berlin today.

Asked whether recently reported cases of confrontation between German citizens and members of the Soviet Army and the escape of three Soviet soldiers to the FRG have impaired the Soviet Union's relations with the GDR, the diplomat said there can be no question of that. Any conflict is regrettable, but the main thing is the readiness on both sides to resolve problems in a businesslike and unemotional manner. This also applies to the elimination of environmental problems linked to the presence of Soviet Army members on GDR territory.

During the relaxed briefing, which the ambassador holds monthly in his office, there were also questions from journalists on the stationing of chemical weapons outside the USSR, the USSR's attitude toward the process of German unification and its relations to neutral states, and on other aspects of Soviet foreign policy. Ambassador Shikin referred to President Gorbachev's clear statement that the USSR has stationed no chemical weapons outside its territory.

Regarding the process of German unification, a breakthrough was achieved at Gorbachev's meeting with Chancellor Kohl. "The toughest nuts have been loosened," and experts on all sides involved are, to his knowledge, working on the specific formulation of the text for the documents for the conclusion of the two-plus-four talks.

He continued to attribute great importance to the neutral and nonaligned states in the shaping of a peaceful Europe.

NVA, Bundeswehr Incorporation Stressed

LD2607072390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0258 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—GDR State Secretary Bertram Wieczorek for the Ministry of Disarmament and Defense has rejected the view of chancellor advisor Teltschik and other FRG politicians that only very few members of the National People's Army (NVA) would stand a chance in an all-German federal Army. As he went on to say to the newspaper NEUES DEUTSCHLAND on Thursday, the planned reductions in the NVA, including conscripts, would come to some 50,000 of the 100,000 men, but that one would not be able to send them home within six months. "You know, there is a lot of talk in Bonn," Wieczorek said. "There are also a lot of civil servants who think they have something to say, but one should listen to the people who have a political mandate and thus bear the responsibility."

The state secretary said that in his opinion the negotiations taking place between the two German Defense Ministries on the future forces in the united Germany were intensive. The GDR side did not want to break up the present staff of the NVA. "This is another reason why we have pushed so hard the view of our prime minister that accession should not be declared right now. We are negotiating for guarantees that a certain number of NVA soldiers will be taken into the territorial Army; how great that number will be I would not like to say at present." The others, who are going home, had to have "adequate social security," in his opinion. These were also important focuses within the framework of the talks on the unification treaty.

However, one could not "send all the NVA soldiers home." "That just would not work. We also need top-ranking officers if we do not want our soldiers to be receiving orders from federal Army generals and officers beginning 1 January 1991. This would have nothing to do with coming together on an equal basis." One also had to say clearly that there would be only one territorial force, "and not one in the East and one in the West."

As Wieczorek stressed, more soldiers would have to leave the federal Army than the NVA. "It has 480,000 men; we have just about 100,000. More than 270,000 will have to go." He announced that, in order to bring NVA members into the territorial forces, posts would be advertised for which people could apply. Personnel consultative committees then should attempt by means of relevant inquiries to decide whether this or that professional soldier "is suitable for a future function in the all-German Army." The criterion for acceptance into the joint German forces was "whether the professional soldier is prepared loyally to serve his democratic state in the future as a citizen in uniform."

Interior Ministry on German Deaths in Soviet Zone

LD2407160190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1530 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Berlin/Moscow (ADN)—During the period 1945 to 1950, some 122,671 Germans in all were interned in internment camps in the Soviet occupied zone of Germany, of whom 45,262 were released. Some 212 were able to escape. In the same period, as the available documents show, 42,889 people died as a result of illness (especially tuberculosis), mainly in the years from 1945 to 1947. The military courts sentenced 756 people to death. This emerges from Soviet information that Interior Minister Diestel received from the Soviet Government on his most recent visit.

ADN also learned from the Interior Ministry today that Diestel will brief the press on 26 July on the documents supplied to him, of which the Soviet side has promised more. [passage omitted]

Information on USSR Camp Inmates Sought

LD2607131690 Hamburg DPA in German 1226 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (DPA)—Following the opening of secret files about the Soviet internment camps on the territory of the GDR, East Berlin is now hoping for information about the fate of some 12,000 Germans forcibly taken to the Soviet Union. These are supposed to have also included numerous scientists during 1945 to 1950. Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel told the press in East Berlin today that talks are continuing with the Soviet authorities about this subject. But he is hopeful that there would be cooperation and explanations on this as well.

The two German Red Cross missing persons bureaux are now making intensive attempts to investigate the fate of inmates of the former Soviet internment camps on GDR territory. The investigations are based on documents about the 10 known camps in the then Soviet occupied zone, which Diestel received from the Soviet Ministry of Internal Affairs during his visit to Moscow last weekend. [passage omitted]

Reportage on De Maiziere Visit to Austria

WA2507122890

For Austrian reportage on the visit by Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere to Austria, please see the Austria section of the 25 July West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Liberals' Compromise Proposal Published

LD2507103290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0604 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—During the discussions on Tuesday [24 July], Peter Thietz, deputy chairman of the League of Free Democrats, submitted to Prime Minister De Maiziere a compromise proposal aimed at settling the coalition dispute. This emerges from a statement issued by the Liberals today.

The proposal envisaged that the GDR should now decide to declare a complete accession under article 23, on the joint ratification of the second State Treaty; should establish all the necessary rulings, such as the shared electoral procedures, the continued existence of the People's Chamber and the government until their replacement by all-German institutions, and the continued existence of paragraph 218 [abortion law] and so on in this unification treaty; and should then complete accession immediately after its ratification.

According to the timetable conceived for the unification treaty, the unity of Germany will thereby be restored in early October. In that way it will then be possible for elections to be called without challenge in the then existing joint German electoral area, and held in accordance with the time rulings. However, the ratification of the unification treaty will have to take on a constitutional character, on the part of the FRG, to give it equal rights to the Basic Law for the transitional period, the statement says. This could be done in particular through an extension of article 79 of the Basic Law. This would take account of and render invalid all the prime minister's reservations. The unity of Germany could then be completed in the shortest possible time and without any delay, now that the two-plus-four problems have been solved. This will be of the greatest possible advantage with respect to the economic problems faced by the GDR laender that are being formed.

The procedure suggested by the Liberals for the GDR will even bring negotiating advantages, as the envisaged election date can only be delayed until January under the basic law. This will mean that the federal government will have to conclude the unification treaty at short notice, and thus will more likely acceed to GDR negotiating positions.

The prime minister assessed this proposal as the most far-reaching to date and worth thinking through. De Maiziere has in particular criticised the continued existence of the People's Chamber and government for the transitional period on this basis as a limitation on their legitimacy. [passage omitted]

De Maiziere Willing To Head Minority Government

LD2507143190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1237 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Vienna (ADN)—Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere intends to continue to seek a compromise with the SPD [Social Democratic Party] on the question of electoral procedures but will undertake, if necessary, the path to German unity with a minority government. Following talks with Austrian Chancellor Franz Vranitzky in Vienna today, De Maiziere told journalists that the SPD has still not left [the coalition]. There are "efforts underway to maintain the coalition, because we hold the view that the very difficult problems are better distributed across broad shoulders." But if there is a breakup, there will be only the possibility of a minority government, because the CDU [Christian Democratic Union] has 166 seats, and it would be impossible to form a government without it. No one would think of calling new elections to the People's Chamber. A compromise idea in the talks with the SPD could be to establish lower thresholds for a unified election area. The problem there is that the GDR parliament could make decisions only on its territory and not for the FRG, and vice versa.

Regarding the situation in the GDR, De Maiziere said there is no inability to act. [passage omitted] There is still a long way to go until the formation of an all-German government. First of all an election must be won. However, he is "fairly sure" of victory. The GDR prime minister sees no all-German consequences arising from the coalition crisis or any resulting urgent need for a meeting soon with Chancellor Kohl. He could not name a new date instead of tomorrow's canceled meeting.

Believes SPD Agreement Feasible

LD2507173290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1702 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Vienna (ADN)—Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has made it clear that the idea of a lower minimum threshold in all-German elections is not his own proposal but that of the deputy chairwoman of the West-Social Democratic Party [SPD], Herta Daeubler-Gmelin. He told ADN in Vienna this evening that "perhaps the Social Democrats have realized that it is now up to them to make a move and not up to us." There appears to be some movement. They will have to "reflect and discuss every possibility of finding a solution." If agreement on the matter is not feasible with a simple 'yes' or 'no', "then we must agree on a procedure which we are in fact capable of finding," the Christian Democratic Union [CDU] chairman stressed. It was precisely this that "angered" him about the Liberals: that the "bridge" that the CDU had tried to build for them in the People's Chamber on Sunday and he himself had tried to build when yesterday's offer of talks had not been embarked upon. It is a problem concerning the constitution and international law, a question of one's understanding of democracy "and admittedly also a party tactical problem." For that reason they have to be clear about where the priorities are, which he currently sees not in a mauling over of party tactical issues but in tackling the "real problems of our country." The Committee on German unity, which is to meet tomorrow, should now finally get to work and draft ideas.

Urged To Move Toward SPD

LD2607120290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1026 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The Social Democratic Party [SPD] is demanding a necessary binding public statement from the prime minister on the unified electoral area, the electoral law, and the voting threshold. As SPD party leader Wolfgang Thierse said on GDR radio on Thursday, he hopes that tomorrow there will be an end to the discussion about the topic of all-German elections. In order for this to happen, Lothar de Maiziere will have to move toward the Social Democrats. According to Thierse, social and economic problems in the GDR will once again have to become the main focus of politics. He pointed out that he has not had any contact with the prime minister since the latter's visit to Austria.

Thierse went on to say that the SPD will not take part in a consultation with constitutional experts on settling the coalition dispute. All-German elections are a political, not a constitutional problem.

The precondition for the cohesion of the coalition is, Thierse said, the question of whether the SPD is accepted as an equal partner.

Lafontaine Calls for SPD To Leave Government

LD2607091190 Hamburg DPA in German 0823 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Frankfurt (DPA)—Social Democratic Party [SPD] chancellor candidate Oskar Lafontaine has called on the SPD People's Chamber group in East Berlin to leave the government. Lafontaine said on Hesse Radio today that the current crisis in East Berlin is being provoked by the Christian Democrats, because Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere can rely on "old connections" with the Socialist Unity Party of Germany's successor, the Party of Democratic Socialism.

PDS Condemns Liberals, SPD Political Behavior

LD2507114290 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1026 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—In a press statement issued today, the Party for Democratic Socialism People's Chamber group has condemned the political behavior of the Liberals and Social Democratic Party in the coalition dispute about the date of the accession of the GDR to the FRG as "an undignified tragedy." Instead of meeting its share of the responsibility for the dramatic economic situation and the deterioration in the social position of many GDR citizens, they are, for transparent election-tactic and power-seeking reasons, placing party interests above the national interests of the citizens of this country, who await answers to their social concerns and needs. [passage omitted]

Spokesman Rejects FDP Accusations

LD2507192790 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1817 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—Party for Democratic Socialism [PDS] Spokesman Hanno Harnisch today rejected the strong accusations made by Hermann Otto Solms, the deputy chairman of the FRG Free Democratic Party [FDP] Bundestag group. Solms said that the GDR-Christian Democratic Union [CDU] did not shrink from "voting down" the coalition partners "together with the rogues from the Socialist Unity Party of Germany," the PDS. De Maiziere had thus operated together with the "criminals" and "swine" who had brought the country to its present state.

In the People's Chamber votes, the PDS press spokesman said, the Liberals and also the Social Democratic Party [SPD] has already voted on several occasions with the PDS parliamentary group, among other things, on the draft constitution of the roundtable. Many People's Chamber laws have been adopted unanimously. After all, as broad a consensus as possible should be established on an urgently needed solution to the specific problems connected with German unification rather than election tactics, he stated.

In making his remarks, Mr. Solms called the 66 PDS deputies elected in free and secret elections and their nearly 2 million voters as well as, by virtue of their voting behavior, the deputies of other parliamentary groups, names which could seriously damage the new democracy.

De Maiziere Asked To Run in Brandenburg Election

AU2607111190 East Berlin DER MORGEN in German 24 Jul 90 p 1

[ADN report: "De Maiziere in Brandenburg"]

[Text] Bonn—Prime Minister Lothar de Maiziere has been asked to run in the land diet elections on 14 October as the Christian Democratic Union's [CDU] top candidate for minister president of Brandenburg. The Brandenburg CDU Presidium, which sent him this request, has not yet received an answer. The Social Democratic Party's [SPD] top candidate is Manfred Stolpe. In the recent local elections, the SPD and CDU each won about 30 percent of the vote on the territory of the future land.

DBD/DFD's Maleuda To Be Independent Deputy

LD2507105390 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1010 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—Dr. Guenther Maleuda, chairman of the DBD/DFD [Democratic Peasants Party of Germany/Democratic Women's League] parliamentary group, announced today his intention to exercise his People's Chamber mandate as an independent. In a press statement he stressed, with regard to the expected dissolution of the DBD/DFD parliamentary group, that he will not join another group. [passage omitted]

Institutional Money Supply 'Running Smoothly'

LD2507115190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1023 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Berlin (ADN)—The GDR's financial institutions have so far borrowed around 23 billion Deutche marks [DM] from the Bundesbank. That means that the credit limit of DM25 billion set until further notice by the guardian of the DM is almost exhausted. ADN was told this today by the deputy head of the Bundesbank's GDR administrative office, Hans-Juergen Siegmund. However, he sees no indications at the moment that the Bundesbank will have to raise this limit on the take-up of rediscount credits. The GDR institutions' money supply is running smoothly. So far the banks have had no liquidity problems. [passage omitted]

Siegmund stressed the need for all financial institutions in the GDR to set very severe yardsticks for granting credit to the economy. [passage omitted]

Chamber Rejects Draft Data Protection Law

AU2607104390 East Berlin DER MORGEN in German 24 Jul 90 p 1

[Erwin Jurtschitsch report: "Data Protection Prevents Prosecution of Stasi"]

[Text] Berlin—This is a "law hindering our dealing with the history of the State Security Ministry." It "practically prevents the work of the special committees on the Stasi [State Security Service]," and "the law is worthless." That was how Dankwart Brinksmeier of the Social Democratic Party of Germany [SPD], chairman of the domestic policy committee, characterized the draft data protection law submitted by Interior Minister Peter-Michael Diestel. For once, all the other People's Chamber groups agreed. The draft "law on protecting personal data collected by the former Ministry of State Security" proposed by Diestel, which was intended to protect the personal rights of roughly six million citizens registered in the Stasi files, has defeated its own purpose. The draft law was unanimously remitted to the committees.

Brinksmeier criticized in particular Section 7 ("Information to the Citizens"). Under this section, a GDR citizen would be given access to Stasi files only if "he can prove that in connection with data collection, measures depriving him of his freedom were applied or force was used against him." However, the citizen will not be given access to these files "if in connection with data collection, the secrecy of the post, telecommunications, and the taxes was violated, or if data was collected within the protected area of the citizen's apartment." In addition, before getting access to the files, the citizen must state "credibly" that he suffered "damage by the use of the data." Brinksmeier said that here the person who suffered the damage has to "prove the offense."

German Social Union [DSU] Deputy Juergen Haschke, a member of the People's Chamber special committee on disbanding the Stasi, who is currently dealing particularly with the secret officers for special tasks (OibE), also sharply attacked Diestel. While this "law protects data, it also protects the former State Security Ministry members.... In addition, it hinders the work of two parliamentary committees that have already been set up." Moreover, Haschke says, the current version of Section 6 "makes it impossible to find high-ranking staff members of the former State Security Ministry, and remove them from government positions, business managers' positions, or the People's Police.... If this draft law is passed in its present version, the parliamentary committees (on disbanding the Stasi) have no right to exist anymore. They could then also be disbanded," said Haschke.

On the fringes of the People's Chamber session, data protection experts said that the draft law had "come about in a hurry." They said that it is also a scandal that Diestel is in charge of guaranteeing the security of the files until the matter has been definitely settled by law. They added that the Council of Ministers "has thereby authorized the interior minister together with the former Stasi members to protect the files of the former Stasi."

Search for Abu Dawud in GDR Continues

AU2507151090 East Berlin NEUE ZEIT in German 23 Jul 90 p 2

["S.K."-signed report: "Abu Dawud Still in he GDR?"]

[Text] East Berlin—Staff members of the Dresden transportation college believe they have recognized a former student as Abu Dawud, alias Abu Tarek, who studied transportation engineering and communications technology at the Dresden college in the eighties. Also, the GDR Central Office for Criminal Investigation has received hints that the Palestinian revolutionary leader was seen in an apartment in a block of old buildings in Rostock. Reports by news agencies that Abu Dawud lived in an apartment in Berlin's Prenzlauer Allee some time ago have been rejected as false.

The GDR Central Office for Criminal Investigation is concentrating personnel in the towns of Rostock, Dresden, and Berlin to be able to verify all leads and to check whether Abu Dawud is still in the GDR. No official request for investigations has been issued against Abu Dawud, who is accused of having been involved in the attack on the Israeli Olympic team in 1972.

Abu Dawud and his companion Sulfrani [spelling as published] often stayed at the Berolina hotel when they were in East Berlin. The hotel is known to be frequented by agents of the Arab secret service. According to the Central Office for Criminal Investigation, one of the "ladies of the house" has allegedly received a call from Abu Dawud from Tunis. This is currently being examined.

Stasi Accused of Aiding Right-Wing Terrorist

LD2507173490 Hamburg DPA in German 1651 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Hamburg (DPA)—The former Ministry of State Security [MfS] in the GDR apparently helped not only left-wing but also right-wing terrorists. According to information from the daily newspaper DIE WELT (Thursday edition), which was confirmed by the FRG Prosecutor's Office in Karlsruhe on Wednesday, the Stasi helped a right-wing terrorist to escape, supplied him with false papers and cash, and offered him a respectable life in the GDR. A terrorist from the right-wing scene reported this to the FRG Prosecutor's Office.

The man had escaped to the GDR in 1983. According to the newspaper, in 1987 he was sentenced by the Frankfurt Higher Regional Court to 10 years and six months imprisonment in his absence for attempted murder by bombing, four counts of serious robbery, and membership in a right-wing terrorist organization. This sentence is legally valid.

The terrorist, according to the report, declined an offer to live in the GDR and went to the Middle East with a false identity. From there he is claimed to have had contact with the MfS for several more years. The investigating authorities are still checking these details.

'No Evidence' of Leaders' Support for Terrorists

LD2607082190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0741 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Bonn (ADN)—Investigations so far have produced no evidence of "relevant support under the criminal law" by the former GDR leadership for alleged RAF [Red Army Faction] terrorists. Federal Prosecutor General Alexander von Stahl expresses this view in an interview in DIE WELT on Thursday. As a state prosecutor, he has to direct his attention to criminal acts. "Relevant support under the criminal law for a terrorist organization, in this case the RAF, essentially requires that the supporters wanted to ensure the cohesion of this organization for the future," said Von Stahl. What is important to the FRG authorities is whether those detained could leave the GDR in order to undertake terrorist attacks. "If this were to be confirmed, it would be a key indication that officials within the state apparatus had also supported RAF activity," said the federal prosecutor general. But there is "also a difference whether I assess a matter in political terms—for example, with the label 'complicity'—or whether I assess it as a lawyer by the yardstick of the criminal code." However, two members of the RAF are strongly suspected of having committed serious crimes even after their assumption of new identities in the GDR.

To a question regarding an amnesty for spies, Von Stahl stressed that he could imagine a law on immunity in the area of secret service work. The federal government and the groups in the Lower House [Bundestag] would have to agree on this.

Mielke Fit for Trail; Faces Abetting Charges

LD2607104190 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 0944 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—Former State Security Minister Erich Mielke was arrested today. This was revealed to ADN by the press office of the GDR state prosecutor general.

An independent committee of doctors has decided that the 82-year-old is fit to stand trial. The doctors recently examined the top politicians of the party and state leadership in power up to the fall of last year with a view to establishing their fitness to stand trial.

As well as being suspected of abetting Red Army Faction [RAF] terrorists, they are now also accused of planning internment camps. Two weeks ago, Acting State Prosecutor General Guenter Seidel, extended the investigative proceedings against Mielke for abetting under Paragraph 233, Sections 1 and 2 of the Criminal Code. This move is based on the suspicion that Mielke gave leading members of the RAF an opportunity to go underground in the GDR and to cover up their identity in order to avoid prosecution. In this connection, the criminal responsibility of other people is also being investigated. [passage omitted]

Claim of Secret Bugging Offices Said Unfounded

LD2607115790 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1028 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Berlin (ADN)—The "bugging devices of the former Stasi" found in East Berlin town halls in the last few days are official cipher departments of the Berlin City Council, it was revealed at a news conference in the Interior Ministry on Thursday. These departments in the Berlin town halls were created in the year 1983 on the instructions of the Council of Ministers and were for the purpose of transmitting coded messages between local and central bodies. These departments cannot undertake bugging, it was explained at the news conference. Hence, the claims about secret bugging offices in the Berlin town halls lack any foundation.

According to the head of the central cipher authorities of the Council of Ministers, Herbert Atlas, Councillor for Internal Affairs, Thomas Krueger was informed about these cipher offices at the end of May. Yesterday Krueger described the discovery of "secret offices" in the Berlin town halls as an unparalleled political scandal.

Effects of Uranium Mining To Be Investigated

LD2307161790 East Berlin ADN International Service in German 1425 GMT 23 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Berlin (ADN)—The effects of uranium mining in southern GDR on the population and environment are at present being investigated. Main supporter of this research program is the State Office for Nuclear Safety and Radiation Protection (SAAS), its vice president, Professor Dr. Walter Roehnsch, said at a press briefing today. Other partners are the SDAG Wismut, the FRG Office for Radiation Protection, and foreign institutions.

The investigations will not be confined to radiation effects. They also comprise medical investigations among the population affected, and a comprehensive survey of the quality of the air and groundwater. First results should be available at the end of this year. [passage omitted]

Asset-Handling Agency Relieves Director

LD2607095290 Budapest MTI in English 0925 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, July 26, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—At its meeting today the Hungarian Government relieved Dr Istvan Tompe of his post as managing director of the State Asset-Handling Agency. Mr Tompe will leave his post on July 31, 1990 and will be replaced by Mr Lajos Csepi, former vice president of the new defunct Hungarian Price Office.

The prime minister appointed Dr Ferenc Madl, minister without portfolio, to the post of chairman of the board of directors of the State Asset-Handling Agency, and Dr Janos Martonyi, state secretary of the Ministry of International Economic Relations, to the post of deputy chairman. The other members of the board of directors will be appointed in the near future.

Mr Tompe has recently been the target of much criticism in connection with the privatization of the Ibusz travel company.

Government To Pay Austrian Dam Reparations

LD2507210190 Budapest Television Service in Hungarian 1730 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpts] The Dunasaurus is still making waves; this time, it concerns the Austrian compensation claim for the cancelled Bos-Nagymaros project. [passage omitted] The minister for the environment made a statement denying that compensation is being paid secretly.

I put the question of public opinion to the government official: Did you pay out 900 million schillings or not?

[Begin Minister for Environmental Protection Sandor Keresztes recording] No, we did not pay this. However, with legal reservations, we acknowledged its legitimacy. Acknowledgement and consent to a 900-million schilling bill means that the Hungarian Government will pay this in the form of electricity deliveries from the year 1996. [end recording]

Government Employment Fund 'Now Exhausted'

LD2507134590 Budapest MTI in English 1157 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, July 25, 1990 (MTI-ECONEWS)—Hungary's employment fund is now exhausted.

Several tens of thousands, far more than expected, have availed themselves of the 40,000-forint, interest-free re-start loan available to school-leavers and the unemployed from the fund.

The loan interest burden which the employment fund took over from the beneficiaries has eaten up 3 billion of the fund's 5.5 billion forints, while originally only 500 million was projected for interest financing.

The Hungarian Government has therefore suspended issuing permits which entitle applicants to the loan.

Unemployment is now higher than planned in Hungary.

Preliminary figures suggest the number of unemployed may well soar to between 80,000 and 100,000 by the end of the year, so the employment fund will not be sufficient to cover unemployment benefit.

The employment fund is also used to finance other objectives much more considerable in volume.

The largest amount forecast for this year was 1.6 billion forints to support job creation schemes.

A similar amount of 1 billion forints has been set aside as special support to crisis areas facing very serious employment problems.

Three hundred million forints is needed for re-training purposes, and about the same amount for the computerization of job centres.

Another 300 million forints was originally projected to take over the cost of public work projects from companies, 150 million forints to build re-training centres, and 150,000 forints to finance early retirement.

Since such objectives are also important in easing unemployment problems, the government is planning to add a substantial amount to the employment fund from the budget.

Jozsef Antall Addresses Hungarian Diplomats

LD2507164390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1000 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] [Announcer] Let us begin with the report on the conference organized for Hungarian foreign representatives. We know top-level personnel changes in our foreign representatives reflect a change of system, meaning a change of policy. Prime Minister Jozsef Antall and several other members of the government briefed the diplomats on this. Gyoergy Mey reports:

[Mey] We have our own fate in our hands, said Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszy in his brief opening speech. He was referring to the latitude and possibilities—available for the first time for 1000 years—that are now opened for Hungarian foreign policy.

Prime Minister Jozsef Antall began his speech on the same premise. Foreign troops have been stationed in the country since 19 March 1944, thus the restoration of the country's sovereignty represents a task encompassing the whole population. The political direction today is set by the National Assembly, without external influences. We cannot be called from Moscow or summoned to the White House, said Antall, depicting the new situation. A successful, correct foreign policy has to be maintained not as part of a bloc policy, but with a changed worldview similar to that of the Western countries' diplomacy.

According to the prime minister, we are received differently today; we are not from the other side; we are on the same side.

Antall briefly mentioned some issues of domestic policy. He said there was no question of the disintegration of the MDF [Hungarian Democratic Forum] and the government coalition. The cooperation is creating unity, and those who believed that the government would fail were nurturing illusions [makkal almodik]. It can be overthrown only from foreign intervention, forcefully, by putsch [coup], and the opposition knows this. The government's parliamentary background and its constitutional position are stable, with special regard to the institution of constructive nonconfidence. Therefore, those who undermine confidence toward Hungary do a great deal of harm. It is not the criticism, but the loss of confidence that can hamper foreign support.

Notes Responsibility for All Magyars

LD2507165390 Budapest Domestic Service in Hungarian 1600 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Gyorgy Ney report]

[Excerpts] Jozsef Antall met our diplomats today. [passage omitted] A determining element in our external relations is how individual countries treat the Magyar minority. Thus, our relations with countries in which Magyardom is not treated well, is difficult. However, if there is improvement, relations can become closer. [passage omitted]

Antall repeated his earlier declaration that he would like to become prime minister of 15 million Magyars, not legally, but in an emotional, conceptual sense.

Concerning foreign political orientations, he believes the united Germany will play a determining role on the continent, which will become a factor for Hungary. At the same time, the government intends to strengthen a strategy directed toward balance with increased ties with France. A supplementary element of this strategy is the Danube-Adria cooperation which encompasses five countries. [passage omitted]

Further on Diplomatic Seminar Address

LD2507203490 Budapest MTI in English 1811 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, July 25 (MTI)—A two-day conference attended by leaders of the Hungarian representations abroad, opened on Wednesday in Budapest, in the cultural house of the Ministry of Defence. The conference was opened by Foreign Minister Geza Jeszenszky.

Addressing the conference, Prime Minister Jozsef Antall said that Hungarian foreign policy to date was determined not only by the circumstances, but also the fact that Hungary has not been a sovereign country since March 19, 1944. A new era has begun: the world power which to date played a determining role in the creation of Hungarian foreign policy strategy is in regression, also in this respect. The Hungarian Government decides in a sovereign manner, by considering the external circumstances, Mr Antall said.

The prime minister noted a Hungarian foreign policy should be created which ensures the country's independence, by taking the realities arising from its geopolitical situation into consideration. At the same time, the interests of the Hungarian minority living beyond the borders should also be kept in mind. No sort of pragmatic goal can impair the sense of responsibility felt for the Hungarian minority. It is not possible to uphold a good relation with a neighbouring country that does not treat the Hungarian minority in an honest manner from the human rights and minority rights aspects. Mr Antall repeated one of his earlier remarks, under which the situation of the Hungarian minority living beyond the country's borders is determining for Hungary. In this sense he stressed that he wishes to be the prime minister of 15 million Hungarians. However, Mr Antall added Hungary does not strive to forcibly change the borders.

Hungary strives for a balanced system of foreign policy relations, Mr Antall noted. He rejected the accusation, according to which the government coalition intends to carry out a one-sided—German—foreign policy orientation. The government considers upholding balanced East-West relations as its priority task.

Discussing the matter of German unity, Mr Antall stressed that the parties of the government coalition believed in the unification of Germany, from the very first, and, in their view, a unified Germany will be the most important economic partner of Hungary. The prime minister said Italy, and other small countries in West Europe, also figure prominently in Hungary's economic life.

Mr Antall stressed the government places great emphasis on developing existing relations with Great Britain and North America. Regular contacts with Japan, South Korea, and the rapidly developing states of the Far East, are also determining for Hungarian economic policy. The government carries out a clear foreign policy towards Israel and the countries of the Arab world. Indication of this is the support provided to the emigration of Jews from the Soviet Union. Mr Antall said changes in emphasis, and in priorities can be expected in cooperation carried out with the Arab states. The government plans to establish diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia.

Mr Antall referred to the fact that Hungary participated in the programme of radically transforming the Warsaw Treaty. Inasmuch as the military organization is not dissolved, Hungary will withdraw from the Warsaw Treaty by the end of the year. Withdrawal from the treaty's political organization is also a part of the programme, and the government is obliged for this also by a parliamentary position.

Discussing the development of Soviet-Hungarian relations, the prime minister said the bilateral relation should be placed on new bases, and the system of relations should rely on correct political and inter-state cooperation.

Evaluating the contacts that have come about with the neighbouring countries, the prime minister expressed his view that there are good-neighbourly relations with Czechoslovakia. Hungary strives to uphold normal inter-state relations, and economic cooperation with Romania, however, a condition of this is to show a correct human rights and minority rights policy towards the Hungarian minority. There is no compromise in this issue, Mr Antall said. Also among Hungary's goals are to maintain good relations with Yugoslavia, and we also consider Poland as one of our most important partners, he said.

Mr Antall did not go into a detailed analysis of the home political situation. He did, however, say that there can be debates within the parties of the government coalition, but there are no signs of its disintegration. The parliamentary groups of the coalition parties provide a firm basis for the government, whose situation is stable. It is not easy to bring down the government, he stressed, this could only be done from the outside, forcefully, with a coup.

Bela Kadar, minister of international economic relations, said that Hungary is forced to raise an annual 3,500 million dollars in new loans. In the first half of the year, Hungarian exports to the CMEA [CEMA] countries dropped by 30 per cent, imports from those countries dropped by 20 per cent. Markets of the West European countries, and the Common Market, hold out the prospects of new possibilities, however, we should suitably adapt to this, the minister stressed.

National Assembly Rejects Bill to Reform Media

LD2507192890 Budapest MTI in English 1853 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, July 25 (MTI)—At its plenary session on Wednesday parliament rejected the bill on setting up a committee for politically independent information, to supervise the press.

MPs [Members of Parliament] also rejected the bill on the temporary appointment of leaders of the national media, that is the Hungarian radio, Hungarian television, and the news agency MTI. (Under the bill, the president of the republic would appoint the leaders of the mass media, on the basis of proposals made by the prime minister and the parliamentary committees concerned).

Parliament has thus decided that the hitherto regulation will remain in force, that is the prime minister will appoint the leaders of the national media.

A sharp debate came about following the vote. Peter Tolgyessy, head of the opposition Alliance of Free Democrats group, said the government parties mainly carried the vote, thus they wished to uphold the former party-state structure. This remark was rejected by Imre Konya, head of the Hungarian Democratic Forum's parliamentary group. Viktor Orban, head of the parliamentary group of the Federation of Young Democrats, voiced his regret over the lack in the readiness of the two large party groups for a compromise.

Parliament's plenary session was then closed. The next session will be held on Monday, July 30.

Socialist Party President Previews 29 Jul Vote

LD2507214690 Budapest MTI in English 2011 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, July 25 (MTI)—I expect that many Hungarians will go to vote on Sunday, and that a majority of them will cast their votes in favour of electing the president of the republic in a direct manner, said Gyula Horn, president of the Hungarian Socialist Party, in answer to a question by MTI's correspondent at a press conference held on Wednesday in Debrecen, in the city headquarters of the party.

Mr Horn termed as pessimistic the predictions, according to which only 20 per cent of voters will cast their ballots on Sunday. However, he stressed that the date of the referendum is rather unfortunate. In answer to a question, Mr Horn said that inasmuch as the people decide in favour of directly electing the president, the Socialist Party would nominate a candidate.

The president of the Socialist Party, discussing the left-wing unity efforts, announced the party has opened high-level dialogue with the trade unions, the Agrarian Federation, and the Social Democrats. According to figures of a recent survey, sympathy for the socialists has increased: 16-18 per cent of voters would cast their ballots for the socialists today.

The danger of disintegration does not threaten the current government coalition, Mr Horn said in answer to another question, as it is not in the interest of any single political force to create a government crisis.

Mr Horn, who is also chairman of parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee, said the current government carries out a successful foreign policy. However, he voiced anxiety over the increasingly strengthening anti-Hungarian mood in the neighbouring countries. In this context, he stated: The remarks of interim president of the republic Arpad Goncz, according to which the road of Romania towards democracy leads through Hungary, were unfortunate. This does not promote either the solution of the minority issue, or the improvement of relations between the two countries.

The Debrecen organization of the Socialist Party held a rally after the press conference. In his address, Mr Horn said that the change in system has not yet been carried out mainly in the economic area. Grave trials and tribulations face the country in the coming months and years. The government will have to pass measures that pose serious conditions for the population. Sharp parliamentary and inter-party confrontations can be expected in the future, which is why the country needs a sovereign president of the republic, one elected by the people.

Szokai Comments on Recent Romanian Overtures

AU2507143790 Budapest NEPSZABADSAG in Hungarian 19 Jul 90 p 2

[Interview with Deputy State Secretary Imre Szokai by Laszlo L. Lengyel; place and date not given: "We Expect Constructive Steps—Imre Szokai on Recent Speech by Romanian Foreign Minister"; first paragraph is NEPSZABADSAG introduction]

[Text] As we have already reported, Romanian Foreign Minister Adrian Nastase proposed Hungarian-Romanian foreign ministerial talks in a radio speech. Our correspondent asked Imre Szokai about the reactions of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry.

[Szokai] First of all, I would like to see the full text of the radio speech to truly evaluate its contents. According to the reports, the tone of the speech shows a constructive approach. I hope this approach will be asserted in practical steps.

[Lengyel] Adrian Nastase said that they proposed foreign ministerial or deputy foreign ministerial talks. Have you received such proposals recently?

[Szokai] To present the situation correctly, I must say that we, rather than the Romanians, have proposed high-level, Hungarian-Romanian consultations. For example, at the Warsaw Pact meeting in Moscow, I personally told my Romanian colleague that I would gladly go to Bucharest to discuss the major bilateral issues. I have not received any response to this proposal. On 2 July, we made a similar proposal, and we did not receive an answer for a long time. Finally, we got an answer at the beginning of this week.

[Lengyel] What kind of issues does the Hungarian side intend to discuss at the meeting?

[Szokai] We would like to discuss all the basic issues in our bilateral relations, sign concrete agreements, and implement them as soon as possible. A higher level foreign ministerial meeting can take place only after such an agreement. Besides, we want to discuss all those proposals which we have submitted to the Romanian side four times since December 1989. We have yet to receive adequate responses to these proposals.

[Lengyel] When will our consul general depart for his post in Kolozsvar [Cluj]?

[Szokai] At previous talks, the Romanians promised that our consul general could go to his post any time. Consequently, he left for Bucharest more than one and a half months ago, but the reopening of the consulate in Koloszvar has been delayed. Now we don't have our old building or a new one. Among other things, I expect a concrete answer to this question at the deputy foreign ministerial meeting, we expect to be told which building we can use for our consulate in Cluj.

[Lengyel] According to the latest news, Romania will introduce new customs regulations which will considerably limit the flow of individual goods. This will negatively affect the Hungarians living in Transylvania. What is your opinion about this?

[Szokai] I also heard this, but I am not familier with the new customs regulations. In any case, I will request detailed information about this from the Romanian side.

Skubiszewski: Warsaw Pact in 'State of Crisis'

LD2607085190 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 0500 GMT 26 Jul 90

[Text] The Warsaw Pact is in a state of crisis, said Foreign Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski in an interview for GAZETA WYBORCZA. However, I do not rule out that, on NATO's initiative, the Warsaw Treaty member states will discuss certain questions concerning armaments and the creation of confidence-building measures with the North Atlantic group, alongside the CSCE Vienna and Geneva talks, he added. The treaty is being modified through changes in the policies of states on both sides. So long as the treaty is in force, it ought to be that which transpires from its letter: A treaty of collective self-defense, permitted under Article 51 of the UN Charter, and nothing more. Up to a certain time, it will also be a level for consultation between the two sides, Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski told GAZETA WYBORCZA.

Skubiszewski Discusses German, CSFR Relations

LD2507165290 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1600 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] During the first part of the sitting of the Sejm Foreign Affairs Commission, which was closed to the press, [Foreign] Minister Krzysztof Skubiszewski put forward to the deputies the state of international debates concerning the German issue. Skubiszewski also discussed Polish relations with Czechoslovakia and Hungary, as well as cooperation with these countries in connection with European integration.

Pitfalls, Opportunities in Eastern Policy Viewed

AU2507123290 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 21-22 Jul 90 p 5

[Agnieszka Magdziak-Miszewska and Jerzy Marek Nowakowski article: "Looking To The East"]

[Text] Eastern policy—that concept causes mixed reactions in Poland. Delicate Europeans, denizens of the salons of Paris or London, will shudder at the thought. Although they do not say as much, because it is not the right thing to do, they would like to see a wall running the length of the Bug river, and not worry about what is happening on the other side. Avowed anticommunists think the best solution is to reverse the alliances. They would like to see Poland belonging to NATO. Finally there are the neo-National Democrats. They would like to be able to help Russia in suppressing the pro-independence tendencies of our neighbors, and this for the sake of friendship with an Empire, which they think is the only protection we have against a "German onslaught."

All these attitudes (and there are also people, fortunately not many, who would like to see a new armed expedition to the East) are, in a nutshell, nothing but spirits from the past, having nothing to do with political thinking, for thoughts on politics must be anchored in the social, economic, and especially in the geopolitical reality.

We might love, fear, or hate the Russians, Lithuanians, and Ukrainians, but one cannot alter the fact that Poland lies between Germany and the Soviet Union, in a Europe that is uniting, and whose Western border could all of a sudden become the Odra river. In that case, Poland would become dependent on the West economically, and on the East militarily. The concept of Poland as a bulwark condemns us to isolation.

There is a chance of an East-West accord since the latest NATO summit and Houston conference. Such an accord removes Poland's attractiveness as an object of political rivalry between political systems.

Even in an economic sense we are no longer attractive. It is obvious to the West that Poland has no modern industrial base, nor cheap manpower like the dynamic Asian countries. In turn, our raw materials base is insignificant compared to that of the Soviet republics, especially Russia.

We will cease to be interesting to the East when credits to finance our exports become impossible and when prices in mutual accounting reach the world level, coupled with a decidedly inferior quality of Polish goods. Neither are we a sufficiently interesting partner as far as exports of technology are concerned.

The concept of neutrality, a certain modification of the vision of a bulwark, will turn out to be a fiasco sooner or later. We are too big to be a neutral country, and besides we are situated in a somewhat different part of Europe than Austria or Switzerland. Sooner or later (probably sooner), a neutral Poland would become a mere item on the world political agenda.

Neither does the recently announced scenario of Poland as a component of the North-South axis seem feasible. What is worse, it is dangerous. Poland's involvement in building two regional alliances, a Nordic one and a Danubian one, might turn us into nothing more than a secondary transit country if no countries in the regions in question are interested in such an involvement by Poland. What is more, after the creation of these two blocs, diplomats might start marking spheres of influence on a map of Poland, just like the Phil Petersen report suggests.

However, our geopolitical situation does have its advantages, which are not insignificant, provided we dispense with the idea of Poland being a bulwark through which traffic can only pass in one direction, either westwards, as the "Europeans" would like, or eastwards, as the communists wanted. It seems that the only intelligent political philosophy for Poland is that of a "bridgehead," involving Poland's openness toward the East and West—openness in a literal sense, with a large number of easily passable border crossings, and a decent network of transit routes; and in a political, economic, and cultural sense.

Perhaps it is worth remembering that the 16th century was the only time Poland really meant something in Europe. For the West, we were attractive as a nation capable of communicating with the unknown and dangerous Orient. In the Orient, however, we were seen as a natural route to the West. We can play a similar role again today.

For the West, Poland will only be attractive inasmuch as it exerts influence on the East; and for the East, Poland will only be attractive inasmuch as the values of democracy and capitalist economics can be successfully applied to postcommunist conditions.

In order to win this role, we must say goodbye to the peculiar concept of Europe "from the Atlantic to the Urals," which only exists in the geography books. After all, Russia does not end in the Urals, but on the Pacific, just as the West does not end in the Bay of Biscay, but in California.

We are witnessing the birth of a new world order in which the old division into East and West is gradually giving way to a new division into a rich North and poor South. The Soviet Union can no longer afford to play the role of protector of this poor South. The declarations made by Soviet politicians clearly show that Moscow wants to join the "company of the rich" as quickly as possible. That means that, paradoxically, the only Europe one can build is a Europe stretching "from the Pacific to the Pacific."

The result of this process will be a gradual disappearance of the divisions between the East and West. The existence in the center of Europe of countries eager to escape to neutrality or join one of the sides of a no longer existing conflict would be both anachronistic and inconvenient for everyone. The future expanded Europe will probably consist of five components: 1. The United States plus Canada; 2. Japan and the dynamic Asian "tigers;" 3. West Europe; 4. The countries of the former Eastern Bloc, plus the Western Soviet republics; 5. Russia, which might be transformed into something like the United States.

The above concept enables Poland to play a leading role in international politics. It seems to us that this is the only possibility for Poland to play such a role in the international arena. Obviously, such a scenario makes Polish Eastern policy very important, and there are several important principles which this policy ought to employ already today.

The first principle is the construction and consolidation of a network of dense contacts, chiefly economic and cultural ones, with our closest neighbors in the East.

We should aim toward a situation where a Polish manager settled in Kiev is the best contact for a producer who wants to open a branch in that city; or where a Lithuanian farmer wishing to sell his cheese in the West will do so best with the help of Polish merchants. For this purpose, it is necessary to discard historical prejudices. An excellent way of doing so is to present Ukrainian or Byelorussian culture, organize trips, hold youth exchanges, and most of all create open borders, open not just to speculators. This involves the need to open new border crossings and work out rules governing cross-border traffic, even if it does involve the risk of periodic economic troubles.

The second strategic task of Polish policy toward the East is a genuine Polish-Russian rapprochement.

A revitalization of Polish-Russian relations, translated into the language of political tactics, means primarily the establishment of contacts with democratic Russia and the possibility for the political, intellectual, and cultural milieux of both sides, not to mention ordinary people, to get to know each other. Russia's isolation, in whatever form, really is contrary to Poland's raison d'etat, also because such an isolation would mean the downfall of democratic forces friendly to us, who pin their hopes on leading a democratic and reformed Russia into the European fold, and on such a Russia being accepted by Europe.

For those people in Russia who are thinking about changes today, people who are building Russia, Polish literature, culture, art, and the press have always been a natural key to Europe and the world. Many people there speak or understand Polish. That is an asset which we must not waste. Objective information about us should find its way over there as quickly as possible, via Polish television, the radio, and the press. One cannot overestimate the role of a well-run Polish Cultural Center in Moscow. Similar centers should be opened in the capitals of the republics. Also important is what we in Poland speak and write about Russia. Our common painful history cannot and must not be erased; however, it must not be allowed to dominate our thoughts on the subject of mutual relations.

Finally, an urgent task for top-level politicians. It is necessary to normalize Polish-Soviet relations. First, that means proceeding to normal bilateral relations (the changes in the USSR seem to be making this easier). Second, one must break the vicious circle of alleged friendship and actual animosity, and proceed instead toward a genuine balance of mutual interests. Between Poland and the individual republics, as well as between Poland and the Soviet Union as a whole, there exists an enormous space for mutually advantageous political and economic interests. Minister Shevardnadze's latest statements show that an awareness of that fact has also appeared on the Soviet side.

Right now there is a good juncture for Polish eastern policy, and we must remember that political junctures are changeable. Therefore we have no right to waste it.

Soviet Troops Stationing in Legnica Discussed

LD2407204190 Warsaw PAP in English 1615 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Legnica, July 24—A Polish delegation chaired by Legnica President Tadeusz Pokrywka and chairman of the town's council Marek Kozlowski met here on Monday [23 July] with the Soviet side headed by Colonel B. Brezovsky to discuss problems connected with the stationing of Soviet troops in Legnica and issues planned to be settled in the near future, Legnica municipal office disclosed today.

The talks are to be continued.

Poll Shows Deteriorating Public Mood

LD2507104690 Warsaw PAP in English 1001 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Warsaw, July 25—A total of 28.3 percent Poles assess the political situation in the couintry as good, that is by 7 percent less than last June and by 14 percent less than last May, according to a public opinion poll conducted by the public opinions polling centre (CBOS) in July and reported by the RZECZPOSPOLITA daily today.

A total 38.6 percent of the polled positively evaluated the ongoing transformations in the country. Every third Pole, that is 33.4 percent, was of contrary opinion. The number of persons convinced that the situation in Poland was favourably developing has decreased by 6 percent since last June while the number of those opposed to this statement increased by 4 percent.

In view of half of the sample the political situation will improve in 2 years while 47 percent expect the economic situation to get better over this period; 14 percent expect the political situation to deteriorate while 19 percent think that the economic one will worsen.

The most pessimistic forecasts refer to a change in living conditions—31 percent, that is every third polled Pole, expect a deterioration in this respect while 38 percent hope that they will improve.

Social tension, prevalent in previous months, aggravated in July—it was felt by 88.5 percent felt calm, that is by 5 percent less than last June.

A chance to diminish threatening social unrest was seen by 10.4 percent of July's sample, that is by 3 percent more than last June. However, 43.6 percent are convinced that tension will still aggravate, this being by 5 percent less than a month ago.

Writer Claims Poland Used 'Death Squadron'

LD2407193990 Warsaw PAP in English 1732 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Warsaw, July 24—"I do not rule out that the Interior Ministry (MSW) employed a 'death squadron' with Father Popieluszko's murderer Grzegorz Piotrowski, an expert in terrorism, being its adviser," Professor Krystyna Daszkiewicz, expert in penal law at the Adam Mickiewicz University at Poznan, told the EXPRESS WIECZORNY evening daily today.

Professor Daszkiewicz was an observer at the trial of the murderers of Father Jerzy Popieluszko and it took her three years and eight months to thoroughly examine the documents connected with the case.

"My studies showed that the four accused in that case were the tip of an iceberg. There had to be others...as concerns indirect perpetrators, I have certain evidence...

"There are clues in testimonies of witnesses and the accused that go beyond the case of Father Popieluszko's murder. There are with no doubt connections between that case and the plan of killing Leszek Pekala (one of Popieluszko's murderers) later on. But also there is evidence that the Interior Ministry had plans of an attempt against the life of the Pope...

"I discovered frightening facts linked with the methods of torturing Father Popieluszko (there is a suspicion that he was tortured by having his eyeballs pushed in). Even the auxiliary prosecutors had no time to properly judge certain evidence and statements...

"No proper consideration was given to many facts included in the evidence. If it was, the question of another MSW team who were to arrest Father Popieluszko on October 19, 1984, would have been solved. Meanwhile, numerous lies hampered further explanations. Nobody stated clearly that Father Popieluszko's murder was to simulate an unintentional accident. MSW witnesses were protected while the head of the court paraded his ignorance of the regulations on professional secret on their case.

"Some of the witnesses, very important ones in my opinion, did not testify at all. By way of example, Piotrowski's mysterious girlfriend Renata M. did not appear at all. Piotrowski himself said he talked to her about the first assassination attempt (two years before the murder) and met her in the wake of the murder. During the latter meeting he allegedly gave her a half of a 1000-zloty note as a souvenir. I doubt whether it was a souvenir. Nobody gives such souvenirs. But it might be a sign for someone else that the owner of this half was the one he could trust."

Professor Daszkiewicz wrote a book on the case which is to appear at the market by the end of the coming August.

Investigation Called for Document Destruction

LD2507105490 Warsaw PAP in English 0941 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Warsaw, July 25—"I am of the opinion that the case of destroying documents by the headquarters of the military police (WSW), reported by the GAZETA

WYBORCZA paper, requires an immediate reaction," Bronislaw Komorowski, national defense vice minister, told the paper on Tuesday.

"I would like to have it unequivocally explained if the destruction of documents was a routine activity or followed a conscious political decision aimed to cover up tracks of some discrediting past, an attempt to conceal the sins of institutions and concrete persons. An appropriate commission should investigate into this," the paper quoted Komorowski as saying.

Interior Ministry on Police Training, Files

LD2507220190 Warsaw PAP in English 2105 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Warsaw, July 25—Asked whether Polish policeman would resemble the "Miami vice squad", Poland's minister of internal affairs Drzysztof Kozlowski replied that there was such a chance, elaborating that talks were under way on the training of Polish policemen by the Americans, British and Dutch. The French are already doing this, the minister said.

Kozlowski was attending a meeting of the OKP [Citizens Parliamentary Club] parliamentary floor group today.

The OKP earlier agreed that a parliamentary debate should be held in mid-September on the need to cut short the 10th term of the Sejm and senate.

Deputy Ryszard Bugaj, who heads the commission analyzing and assessing the performance of the previous government, briefed the meeting on the draft resolution which the commission intends to table to the Sejm. "The draft uses very stern though reserved words to condemn the team of Mieczyslaw Rakowski for its concrete operations and general performance," said he.

Kozlowski on Police, Ministry Files Burning

The interior minister spoke about action aimed at debureaucratizing police structures, announcing that verification of over 4 thousand former security servicemen who want to be policemen has been just concluded in 22 voivodships.

The minister stated that files of the Ministry of Internal Affairs were destroyed many times in Poland's postwar history. The biggest such operation took place in 1956-1957 when the archives from the Stalinist era were being destroyed. A wave of such action has covered all of Poland since last autumn. This foremost concerns the archives of the former 4th department which dealt with priests and the church and the 3rd department which tackled constitutional protection. The minister revealed that 1,200 files of secret collaborators and informers were destroyed in Piotrkow, central Poland.

"I have chanced upon traces of institutional ties between various interior ministry cells and the Soviet KGB. This cooperation is over. Today there are good relations with the KGB representation in Poland which is officially accredited to the Interior Ministry. The existence of this representation does not bother me," Kozlowski told the OKP.

Ministers Consider Radio, Television Bill

AU2407153590 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 20 Jul 90 p 1

["ab, krzem"-signed report: "The End of the Radio and Television Committee?"]

[Text] The bill for reforming the status of radio and television, which the team for radio and television reform (headed by Karol Jakubowicz) has been working on since last fall, appeared on the agenda of the Council of Ministers meeting on 19 July and is to come before the Sejm today.

Polish Radio and Televisions is to be placed under the direction of a Supervisory Board. Two persons will be appointed to the board by each of the following: the Sejm, the Senate, the president, and the Council of Ministers. There will be one representative appointed by the work force. This represents a move toward increasing public control over television.

Radio and television will become more independent of each other. They will be financed separately and will have separate programming councils composed of experts, representatives of arts communities and associations, and religious denominations.

The bill envisages that political parties represented in the Sejm and the Senate will be assured air time—based on the number of seats they hold—not exceeding one percent of air time in a given year and other parties will receive 0.5 percent of air time (this is not a small amount in view of the fact that about 10,000 hours of television are broadcast annually and 120 hours of radio are broadcast daily).

A national radio and television council is to be established. It will draft state policy, formulate regulations governing the operations of "independent and commercial stations," and fix license charges. The chairman is to be appointed by the Sejm acting on a recommendation from the prime minister, and the council will be made up of representatives of the Sejm and the Senate (two each), the president of the Republic of Poland (one), and three persons appointed by the Council of Ministers (the similar French council includes representatives of the government, television employees, and prominent political figures).

The present situation, in which the Radio and Television Committee is to decide who should be sold channels that would compete with it, has prompted strong objections from deputies and senators on the culture commission.

The bill is still being debated as we go to press. The part of the bill that deals with the functioning of state radio and television has drawn sharp criticism. It has been proposed that the issue should be reconsidered at the government's next meeting, once further improvements have been made to the draft, and that the bill should be directed to the Sejm without that part, in which case the Sejm would only advise on "ordering the airwaves."

Sejm Session Adopts Laws on Culture, Wages

AU2507103090 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 20 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[Jan Forowicz report: "In the Hall and in The Corridors"]

[Text] During its 36th session, the Sejm adopted three laws and heard replies to questions from deputies, plus three statements. There was also no shortage of unexpected quirks and petty incidents, which enlivened the routine nature of the chamber's work.

The amendment to the law on the protection of cultural treasures and museums was approved unanimously. It creates better conditions for looking after the 450,000 architectural monuments—material assets which illustrate the cultural standard and identity of our ancestors.

Next, the Sejm passed an amendment to the law on factory wage systems, which restricts outside intervention in the wage solutions adopted by factories, "thus loosening the corset that hinders a rationalization of wages," as the document says. Unless wages are stimulated, the economy is unable to emerge from the crisis, it was said in the discussion.

The Sejm made several important changes to the law on sober upbringing and the combating of alcohol. They abolish the monopoly on the wholesale of liquor, the time restrictions on the sale of high-proof liquor (such as the infamous 1300 hours), and the maximum profit margin for liquor sold by catering establishments.

During deputies question time, ministerial representatives explained that the mechanisms which guarantee bonuses for holders of savings accounts for building purposes will be improved; in other words the chief drawback of this system, the late payment of this bonus, will be removed. This means that home owners will not experience the effects of inflation as keenly as before.

In a statement, Deputy Jan Koscielniak (Democratic Party) asked the government to finally establish a clear demarcation of territorial waters in the Pomeranian Bay. The inhabitants of Nowe Warpno in particular are disturbed by the shortcomings that have come to light after the conclusion of a relevant agreement with the GDR in May 1989. "They are scared that one day they will wake up and find themselves living in a different country," said Deputy Koscielniak.

Other deputies called for a speedier pension reform, asked the government to urgently inform the chamber on the results of the Paris two-plus-four talks which were attended by a representative of Poland, and sharply criticized some hospital managements for refusing to perform abortions. Concerning this latter topic, some directors were accused of placing religious principles before medical requirements, and the Health Ministry was scored for its lack of supervision over this issue and its issue of decrees which only complicate the matter.

At 1600, during the Sejm plenary debate, the chair of the president of the Polish Republic was occupied by an unknown, smartly dressed woman. This caused merriment among some deputies, and great anxiety for the guards. The intruder was asked to leave the presidential part of the gallery. She turned out to be a member of a visiting U.S. delegation of lawyers. During a tour of our parliament, instead of reaching the public gallery, she had found her way to the president's chair by accident.

During an evening meeting of the Citizens Parliamentary Club [OKP], deputies criticized the unfortunate process of selecting a new chairman of the Supreme Chamber of Control. They said that a premature motion by the Sejm Presidium to the Senate to consider candidates, followed by the unanimous adoption of a stance by the Senate on this topic, turns a simple formality into a complicated matter. Lawyers argue that this selection process is a violation of the legal rules, whereby the chairman of the Supreme Chamber of Control can only be made by the Sejm. The choice of the best candidate by the Chamber could now be jeopardized for reasons that are totally minor.

The OKP reacted coolly to Deputy Aleksander Malachowski's motion to hold a debate on curtailing the term of office of the present, 10th Sejm. It was admitted that such a debate is important, for there are many reasons in favor of a curtailment of the present Sejm. The "round-table" deal that established its political composition is no longer valid, apart from which, as Deputy Anna Urbanowicz pointed out, deputies are signing their names beneath a petition for the resignation of Wojciech Jaruzelski from the post of president and election of Lech Walesa for this post by the National Assembly. However, one should consider whether a curtailment of the Sejm would not cause a dangerous temporary relaxation of the speed of the reform. Deputy A. Malachowski's motion is to be considered in detail at the OKP meeting next week.

Walesa Letter to Citizens Committees Released

AU2507151290 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 23 Jul 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Lech Walesa's Letter: The Committees Are Indispensable"]

[Text] Lech Walesa could not attend Sunday's [21 Jul] meeting of Citizens Committee delegates ("My arm is still in plaster. The doctor told me that I should not move about too much so that it heals more quickly") and wrote a letter to them.

He writes, among other things: "There should be as much order and clarity in the organization of the committees as possible, so that it is clear who makes what decision and on what basis. Only then will you be able to feel responsible for these decision. Only then will society understand and support you.

"The independence of local committees is a fundamental issue. The elections are coming up. You should take care that no one imposes anything on you. Look for candidates for parliament yourselves, and decided who you want to support yourselves.

"It pleases me that more and more possibilities of political choice are opening up before the Poles. An attempt to centralize the citizens movement was made a few weeks ago. It is a good thing that you did not agree to that. It is wrong to try to force the creation of some vague unity—as I said then, a kind of bag that someone will carry off to some unknown destination.

"Now, everything has become much clearer. Those who wanted to create a centralized organization at that time have now formed a grouping. That is basically a healthy phenomenon. It would have been even better if Democratic Action had clearly explained what its objectives were. In other words, it would be better if it had a clearly defined program.

"It should not only have a theoretical program. It should also state who is to implement that program. When parties announce their programs, they also state who is to implement them: That is what happens all over the world. It is not possible to separate programs from people, from leaders, and from candidates."

"Some people say that the role of the Citizens Committees is already over. I do not agree with that. The committees performed a significant role in bringing down communism. However, we have still not built a new system, and that is a job for which the committees are needed and indispensable. They must assist the new local government councils. They are not needed to dictate things to local government authorities, but to make people feel that they are our authorities, that they represent our interests.

"I think that today committee activists should become actively involved in matters relating to the future constitution and electoral code. It is something that the entire nation should express views on, and not just specialists working behind closed doors. We all fought totalitarianism, and we all have a right to describe the form that our Polish democracy should take."

Citizens Committees Hold National Conference

AU2507211290 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 23 Jul 90 pp 1, 2

[Tomasz Roguski report: "In Favor Of A Conference, Against The Parties"]

[Excerpts] Neither Lech Walesa nor Tadeusz Mazowiecki came to the National Conference of Citizens Committees on Sunday, 22 July, in Warsaw. Both excused themselves on medical grounds. However, Zdzislaw Najder, Andrzej Stelmachowski, and Bronislaw Geremek did attend.

The meeting was calmer than previous citizens committee conferences, and there were fewer journalists and observers. It began with the reading of a letter from Lech Walesa. [passage omitted]

Speaking immediately after the "Solidarity" chairman's letter was read, Zdzislaw Najder stressed the need to preserve the independence of local citizens committees. Lech Walesa's Citizens Committee will perform a service role for them. He said that a concentration of forces is still necessary, but this must take place according to different rules than before. There can be no artificial unity achieved by erasing differences. Instead, there must be a unity that originates from debates on various programs and on the democratic selection of the best solutions. Citing a report by Citizens Parliamentary Club [OKP] experts, Najder said that confidence in the Mazowiecki government has fallen. The task of the Citizens Committees should be to rekindle hopes by encouraging social and political activity.

The debate was shorter than usual; 11 people spoke. Most of the time was taken up by voting on all sorts of issues. The way in which voivodship citizens committees will be represented at national citizens committee conferences in the future was discussed. In those voivodships with only one citizens committee, each such committee will send three delegates to national conferences, but in voivodships with two committees, each such committee will send two delegates. On 22 July, 38 voivodships had one "united" citizens committee, and 11 had two.

The principles that were agreed upon in the form of an opinion poll at the 30 June and 1 July meetings were finally approved by means of a ballot. The collaboration of citizens committees will assume the form of conferences, and the independent movement of citizens committees will collaborate with the "Solidarity" Chairman's Citizens Committee. The question of political parties belonging to citizens committees aroused controversy. A separate stance on this issue was adopted by the Lodz Citizens Accord, which is mainly an alliance of political parties. Krzysztof Kocel said that right now, various political groups are emerging from the citizens movement, therefore one should allow the political parties that emerged previously to belong to this movement. Apart from parties, the Lodz Citizens Accord also consists of individuals. On the other hand, the transforming Citizens Committee of Lech Walesa is becoming a platform of collaboration between political parties.

The delegates expressed mistrust in parties, and voted overwhelming in favor of the citizens committees being platforms of collaboration between citizens connected with the "Solidarity" idea. There were only three votes in favor of these committees being platforms of collaboration between parties. [passage omitted]

The delegates issued a letter to Lech Walesa, as suggested by the Czestochowa Citizens Committee. In it, they thank him for his support of the citizens committee movement, and say that the committees are a basis on which to rebuild local government, and that they reject all political monopolies. They also issued a get well message to Prime Minister Mazowiecki.

There was no vote on the motion put forward by the Nowy Sacz Citizens Committee to support the acceleration postulated by Lech Walesa and his candidacy for president.

The next conference will take place on 9 September. The secretariat of Lech Walesa's Citizens Committee will prepare it.

Pro-Walesa Weekly, TV Head Meet on Alleged Bias

AU2607122490

[Editorial Report] Gdansk TYGODNIK GDANSKI in Polish on 22 July carries on pages 3 and 11 an approximately 2,600-word long interview with Jacek Snopkiewicz, editor in chief of television "News," by Edmund Szczesiak under the headline "'News' Good or Bad...."

The interviewer states that "television is lying once again" and repeats charges that Polish Television "News" deliberately reports on the activities of Lech Walesa in a manner that plays down his political significance and positive role in Polish public life, while simultaneously exhibiting a strong inclination toward uncritical support for the Mazowiecki government. These accusations are firmly denied by Jacek Snopkiewicz, who asks to be given concrete examples. Provided with such examples, he then indicates the technical problems and time constraints involved in news reporting and discusses coverage of Walesa's role in ending the recent rail strike, of Sejm and Senate sessions, and access to televisions for various political groupings.

ROAD Leaders Discuss State Objectives

AU2607113990 Warsaw RZECZPOSPOLITA in Polish 21-22 Jul 90 p 2

["R.W."-signed report: "ROAD Signatories in Parliament"]

[Text] "We are forming a political group that wants to help organize a Polish state with a strong parliament and a strong government elected by this parliament," said Zbigniew Bujak during a meeting on Friday between leaders of the Citizens Movement "Democratic Action" [ROAD], and Sejm deputies and senators from the Citizens Parliamentary Club.

Z. Bujak said that ROAD is in favor of a strict implementation of the law on the road from totalitarianism to democracy. However, there is a danger that the economic problems will encourage revolutionary processes. ROAD's founders say that a fear of such a scenario, in which the country's fate would be decided in the streets, is one of the main reasons why the movement has been formed.

ROAD believes that the presidential campaign has begun too soon, and that the first signs of a parliamentary election campaign are also premature. But because these things have happened, they have to be accepted. ROAD also thinks the parliamentary elections must not take place before the spring, because the present Sejm and Senate ought to complete their work on a package of fundamental legislation that will have a bearing on the country's new system. On the other hand, the president should be elected before the present year is out, preferably in a general election.

"We are concentrating on a certain vision of Poland, not on a struggle between one side and the other," said W. Frasyniuk.

Asked whether ROAD intends to become a party, Bujak replied: "Society is dividing. Yes, we want to be a part of society that can be singled out and identified." Nevertheless, ROAD is against the use of the labels "left wing" and "right wing," considering this to be an artificial division that is now disappearing.

Questions were asked about ROAD's attitude toward the citizens committees. The ROAD leaders replied that it is not their intention to break up or take over the citizens movement, which has been formed by people who care about their immediate surroundings. However, they said that instead of political matters being handled by the civic committees and trade unions, they should be handled by parties and political groups.

Social Democratic Union Split Rumors Reported

AU2607122690 Warsaw TRYBUNA in Polish 24 Jul 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "Split in the 'Union'?"]

[Text] Circles close to the Polish Social Democratic Union Party say there is talk of a possible split in the party. Tadeusz Fiszbach, head of the party and generally regarded as a "Walesa man" in the Polish social democratic movement is reported to be casting glances at the Center Accord. His two closest collaborators outside parliament, Kazimierz Kik and Jacek Wodz (both come from the "8 July Movement"), would rather see an alliance with one of the Polish socialist parties (it is not clear which one), although Grzegorz Ilka a leader of one of these parties has publicly stated in TRYBUNA that he would personally be very happy if the influence of the "post-Polish United Worker's Party groups" were to disappear completely.

At the moment we have the summer heat-wave. Will the decision be taken in the fall?

AL-PRESS, Agency of the Left.

Right-Wing Forum Unsure of Allegiance

AU2507151490 Warsaw GAZETA WYBORCZA in Polish 23 Jul 90 p 3

["LAW"-signed report: "The Right Wing Forum Is Hesitating"]

[Excerpts] Should it cooperate closely with the recently established Citizens Movement "Democratic Action" [ROAD] within the framework of the Krakow Alliance for Democracy, or should it establish its own identity? That was the major and still unresolved dilemma facing the Forum of the Democratic Right [FPD] at its Saturday meeting in Warsaw. In the end, a compromise was reached whereby support would be given to the Alliance for Democracy, but the FPD's separate identity and independence would be preserved at the same time.

Nevertheless, the FPD must decide where it belongs, an important decision in view of the prospect of an earlier presidential election, it was said. The FPD's situation within the Krakow Alliance cannot be as ambiguous as it has been so far. [passage omitted]

During the discussion, the need was stressed to work out a political program unique to the FPD, and not act purely on the basis of the logic inherent in the current political struggle. Because of emergency tactics, society considers the FPD to be opposed to Walesa's presidential candidacy, said Rafal Matyja from Warsaw. That way, the FPD might lose voters who are in favor of Walesa, but against the Center Accord. Matyja also criticized the statement issued by the FPD Krakow group shortly after the formation of ROAD, suggesting close links between the two. He suggested that it should be made clear that the FPD is mainly an accord as to the rules and principles of political activity.

The FPD cannot be considered an appendage of ROAD, it was said. If it is, that is because it was included in the political set up before it had been properly established. "Our adversaries claim that we were set up at the request of left-wing milieux," said Piotr Skwiecinski. "We are treated as a right-wing extremity of a left-wing setup. Stronger links with ROAD may discourage people who want their 'own right-wing group' from joining the FPD." [passage omitted]

Democratic Left on Draft of Previous Government

LD2507215990 Warsaw PAP in English 2049 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Warsaw, July 25—Deputy Ireneusz Sekula, a vice premier in the previous government of Mieczyslaw Rakowski, today asked members of his PKLD [Parliamentary Club of the Democratic Left] parliamentary floor group of the Democratic Left to reject the draft resolution prepared by the Sejm special committee for analyzing and assessing the performance of the previous government. Sekula thought the resolution should carry an objective assessment of Rakowski's government.

Sekula postulated to vote in favour of the resolution only if it also contained the positive aspects of the operation of Rakowski's government and after the entry on the political and moral motives of the decision to shut down the Gdansk shipyard was erased. He also demanded the exclusion of the motion to have the constitutional accountability committee review the scope fo the responsibility of some members of the former government for the decision to shut down the shipyard.

Sekula mentioned the start of economic reforms and the normalization of relations with the church among the previous government's merits.

Further Break-In at Slupsk Peasant Party HQ

LD2507110290 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1005 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] For the third time in the last few weeks, unknown perpetrators have broken into the headquarters of the voivodship council of the Polish Peasants Party [PSL] in Slupsk. The local police are energetically investigating, but so far without result. During the third break-in, all the doors were broken down so as to get to the safe containing documents. Apart from minor photocopier parts, nothing was taken. PSL activists are surprised, for instance, why the eagle, the state symbol, was broken; is it the case that these are politically motivated break-ins?

Working People's Accord Formation Announced

AU2507183890 Warsaw ZYCIE WARSZAWY in Polish 23 Jul 90 p 1

["dan"-signed report: "Working People's Accord—An Electoral Alliance of the Left"]

[Text] A meeting of a 300-strong group, which describes itself as a non-Solidarity left, was held on 22 July in the Warsaw offices of the National Trade Union Confederation. Several participants emphasized at the outset that the date chosen for the meeting was no mere coincidence and was connected with the intention to mark the 22 July anniversary. However, the organizers of the gathering explained that the real reason behind the meeting was to form a Working People's Accord. At the same time such a movement could become a forum for parties and groupings of this section of the left. It would then begin elaborating a joint program in readiness for the next parliamentary elections. Setting up local Working People's Accord groups is also planned.

The electoral program will be drafted by a smaller team. From what was said at the meeting, it is easy to imagine what the main points of such a program are likely to be. The most important item of the program would be a repudiation of the present government's economic program. Professor M. Miesz Czanowski strongly criticized the present program and said that a 40-percent drop in the standard of living, a 30-percent fall in production, and a staggering increase in unemployment all within the space of 12 months was unheard of anywhere in the world. He suggested that the electoral program clearly say that it was declaring war on capitalism, thus, in essence, a war against the government's intentions to privatize state assets. This was widely supported by those present at the meeting.

This suggestion, however, also had certain opponents. Jacek Kasprzyk explained that those present also bore a good deal of responsibility, because it was the left, the so-called socialist left, that itself had been unable to put forward an efficient socio-economic program. He pointed to the absence of younger people at the meeting. Young people who could look at the present transformations in a different way than through their personal experiences. It would be these people who would form the core of the left. It would be a left that would not feel embarrassed by the word socialist and would win the public's support. He criticized the date chosen for the meeting. In his opinion, the July Manifesto and its consequences in Poland still aroused great controversy. In the discussions held during the meeting there were too many historical references and too little planning for the future, which after all, is the most important task. The aim is to form an electoral movement and not a movement of the disaffected. Another representative of the younger generation criticized the tendency to relapse into old concepts that no longer mean anything to anyone, for example, the center left.

Despite certain divergences of opinion, all those present at the meeting approved the formation of the Working People's Accord as a future electoral alliance. In their declaration they called on all political, social, and professional organizations, as well as private individuals, to join the movement.

Agricultural Market Agency Appoints Chairman

LD2507135490 Warsaw Domestic Service in Polish 1200 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The Agricultural Market Agency Council met in Warsaw today for the first time. Piotr Baumgart, an individual farmer from Szczecin Voivodship and chairman of the north-western greater region of the Independent Self-Governing Trade Union of Individual Farmers Solidarity, was chosen as its chairman. At the meeting forms of intervention in the grain market in the country that the agency intends to introduce this year are being discussed.

Jaruzelski Tours Tarnow Province 25 Jul

LD2507210390 Warsaw PAP in English 1438 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Tarnow, July 25—Poland's President Wojciech Jaruzelski is visiting the southern province of Tarnow today.

Having been greeted by deputies and senators from the region, provincial and municial authorities, and by representatives of social organizations and the Tarnow diocese, the president went to Wierzchoslawice where he laid flowers at the grave of Wincenty Witos (outstanding activist of peasant movement and statesman) at a local cemetery.

Jaruzelski visited also a museum in Witos' house and talked with private farmers.

At mid-day the president toured the rural cooperative in Wierzchoslawice and then visited the nitric plant in Tarnow which produces fertilizers for agriculture.

Iliescu Meets Labor Party Executives 24 Jul

AU2507113390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 0742 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—On Tuesday [24 July] President Ion Iliescu met with executives of the Labour Party.

Aspects of the country's political and economic life were approached as well as social questions confronting Romanian society during its democratization process.

On the occasion emphasis was placed on the importance of the economic reform initiated by the government as well as of the adequate preparation of that process and the necessity was shown that the public opinion be permanently informed about the characteristics of the transition to a market economy. The dialogue with the political parties was appreciated as an important part of the current process.

Roman Discusses Bucharest Demonstrations, Image

PM2507143490 Paris LE MONDE in French 25 Jul 90 p 4

[Jean-Claude Buhrer report: "Government Strives To Improve Its Image"]

[Text] Bucharest—The beginnings of a more peaceful situation seems perceptible in Bucharest following the success of the 13 July demonstration in which several tens of thousands of people marched without incident to demand the release of student leader Marian Munteanu.

The opposition, still angered by the brutal intervention by miners a month ago, has begun to overcome its fear and regain its courage. This proves that the discontent was not just felt by a handful of "hooligans,"—the authorities now no longer dare to claim this at the risk of looking ridiculous—and that the dissatisfaction extends well beyond the limited circle of students.

This peaceful march and the demonstrations which have taken place since have also provided an opportunity to protest the recent price increases, the continuing difficulties in supplies, the slow pace of reforms, and everything which still reminds people of the old regime. The expression of disappointed hopes, reflecting the persistent political, economic, and social malaise, was on the banners: "Canon fodder in December, in detention now." "Nonviolence in chains, atrocities go free." "We want justice not staged trials," or even more simply, "Down with communism."

Dealing with the Most Urgent Problems

The government, which has been on the defensive and enmeshed in its inconsistencies since the extremes of mid-June, and which is isolated abroad, cannot disregard the warning if it intends to improve its image which has been rather tarnished abroad. On the eve of his private visit to France, Prime Minister Petre Roman expressed satisfaction at the peaceful nature of that demonstration. "In my view," he told us, "this is the positive return to civilized behaviour. It is important to guarantee the free expression of opinions and to solve problems by dialogue. A parliamentary commission has been set up to investigate the events of mid-June and the day of the demonstration, and the justice minister has received a student delegation."

Strangely enough, however, the same evening, during his first television speech since his election, President Ion Iliescu did not make any reference to these burning issues. Speaking in a moralizing tone, he merely preached to his fellow citizens, calling on them "to learn to work efficiently" to overcome the current economic impasse. "We do not need any lessons in democracy, we need respect and understanding for our people," he said. Does this mean that there is conflict between the president and the prime minister? Mr. Roman reaffirmed that, according to the laws in force "the president has very symbolic powers, and the prime minister has executive power." "In addition," Mr. Roman added, "Mr. Iliescu was elected by universal suffrage with an overwhelming majority, which gives him more influence than stipulated by the documents. He is above the fray and, as the person with executive power, I am bound to be more exposed, I take the unpopular the measures."

"It is untrue," Mr. Roman added, "to talk of disagreements between President Iliescu and I. For instance, he made no criticism of my program speech. He simply asked me to give some clarifications. It was Mr. Iliescu who thanked the miners and who summoned them. The president still has hanging over him the allegation that he was a communist and that he has remained a communist. We must go back to 22 December. Who was I? Nothing at all. He was the man in whom a whole people's hopes rested. What did he do that day? He signed the death sentence on the communist system. With the good fortune he had then, he could have kept 90 percent of the system with the former communists who surrounded him. However, he has not kept anything. He has decreed that the party apparatus is dead. He immediately accepted political pluralism, rejecting the system, and that is remarkable."

Silviu Brucan, one of the main figures in the National Salvation Front in its early days, pointed out: "The Munteanu case is characteristic of the government's lack of clear-sightedness. In a demoncratic system you cannot keep anybody under arrest for a month without producing serious evidence of his possible guilt." While recognizing that it is difficult to move from a planned economy to a market economy, Mr. Brucan expressed the view that the government has vacillated for too long and that it is time to "take action."

In a country drained by dictatorship and with a bankrupt economy, there can be no miracles. Initially, the government dealt with the most urgent problems by importing food and oil, but the shortages quickly reappeared and lines can be seen throughout the city. On Sunday, on the outskirts of the capital, a veritable "den of thieves" plays the role of stock exchange.

Old reflexes persist and many dubious Romanians still have to be convinced of their leadership's good intentions. "It is the same book in a different cover," one housewife remarked, complaining about having to stand in line again after a fleeting improvement at the beginning of the year.

Prosecutor's Office Statement on Munteanu Case

AU2507163790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1452 GMT 25 Jul 90

["Political Life: From the Prosecutor's Office of Romania"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—A statement of the Prosecutor's Office was read on the National Television Station concerning the 13-15 June events, and particularly the situation of Marian Teofan Dragos Munteanu, leader of the University of Bucharest's Student League.

Sharing the natural public concern to know the truth about the said events, the statement says, we realize that some of the opinions and demands stated in the mass media and at public meeting are founded on a distorted knowledge of facts and at the same time ignore the judicial norms that warrant the administration of justice in a state of law.

Against Marian Teofan Dragos Munteanu criminal proceedings were initiated on 16 June 1990 on several criminal charges among which instigation to damage public property, punishable under Article 231 of the Criminal Code, and the unauthorised entry into the headquarters of the central and local state bodies, punishable by the Decree-Law no.88/1990. Criminal proceedings were initiated on the strength of the data and evidence supplied by the criminal investigating bodies which show that on 13 June the defendant urged people in University Square to go to the Bucharest Police Headquarters and force the release of the persons who had been detained earlier in the day, and to the Romanian Television where they were also supposed to force the institution's decision-makers to broadcast a videotape of the demonstrations in the city.

Since the lawful offences for which criminal proceedings were started are punished by the law by a prison term of more than two years, the Bucharest City Prosecutor's Office put the accused in investigative custody, in line with the provisions of Article 148 of the Code of Criminal Procedure.

The investigation concerns only common law offences and is unrelated to options, positions or other political activities. The criminal investigation observes the terms of the Code of Criminal Procedure. Contrary to certain assertions, the defendant was given the right to defence: he is assisted by a lawyer of his own choice who could get in touch with the defendant in order to prepare and make his defence.

All the conditions are in place for the lawyer to be able to contact the defendant, on request, on all matters deemed as necessary to defend his client.

Furthermore, the defendant was given permission to be visited by his family and representatives of international organizations the International Red Cross, Amnesty International and even foreign parliamentary institutions.

In connection with the health of Marian Teofan Dragos Munteanu, the following is inferable from the medical examination acts: Marian Teofan Dragos Munteanu was admitted to the emergency hospital on 16.06.90. A medical commission examined his and found lesions that may have been caused on 14 June 1990 by hard objects that hit him and that required 8-10 days of medical assistance.

An original diagnosis alleging that Marian Teofan Dragos Munteanu had sustained fractures was disproved by clinical and radiological examinations which failed to show any bone injury.

A full clarification of the Marian Teofan Dragos Munteanu's case, like of all criminal acts perpetrated on 13-15 June, call for extensive evidence, including that requested by all defendants.

The criminal investigation of defendant Marian Teofan Dragos Munteanu is expected to be completed early in August, and the proper solution demanded by the law depends on the outcome of the investigation. The investigation of the other persons detained for their offences in June this year is also due to end shortly, the statement says.

Students' Letter Demands Release

AU2607082390 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 10 Jul 90 p 3

["Text" of "Open Letter to the Bodies of Power" from the League of Students of the Bucharest Polytechnic Institute and the Association of Architecture Students issued in Bucharest on 9 July]

[Text] Open Letter to the Bodies of Power
—Mr. President Ion Iliescu
—Mr. Prime Minister Petre Roman
—Mr. Senate Speaker Alexandru Birladeanu
—Mr. Deputies Assembly President Dan Martian

We are deeply worried over the increase in social tensions following the events of 13 to 15 June 1990, when the most elementary human rights were violated. One cannot talk about the notion of a state of law in 1990 as long as the most peaceful forms of the assertion of democracy and truth have been, and continue to be, brutally repressed.

We, like all law-abiding people, want peace and understanding among all social categories. However, we believe that in spite of apparent forms of public tranquillity, they are far from representing a true social and political balance. We consider the balance of social forces and categories as the defining element of the notion of tranquility, not this self-imposed or imposed dumbness, regardless of how or why it has come to prevail.

Marian Munteanu's arrest, in the wake of slanderous claims and collusions, is designed to maintain a regime of overall fear conducive to inhibiting any peaceful initiatives that can further the revolutionary process for the attainment of a true democracy that can be recognized both at home and abroad.

As long as a man who has instilled a peaceful, dignified, and civilized spirit in all demonstrations is accused of exactly the opposite, we all feel in danger of being slandered in the same way. Because of this uncertainty, a large number of intellectuals and students have chosen the path of political exile, with the process continuing and becoming a stampede.

The miners were congratulated, and are free in spite of their crimes and devastation, while a man who through his statements and personal example has left a peaceful imprint on all demonstrations is under arrest, and while other students, intellectuals, and peaceful people have been bestially beaten up. Therefore, we can note a reversal of human values in society, and principles of justice.

In order to find the much sought after balance that will be on par with international requirements, we demand the unconditional release of Marian Munteanu, president of the Students' League. In support of this request, we will begin by organizing a protest march that will set off from the Opera Square on Friday 13 July 1990 at 1700.
Bucharest, 9 July 1990
The League of Students of the Bucharest Polytechnic Institute,
President Eugen Leahu
The Association of Architecture Students,
President Alexandru Babos

Parliamentary Foreign Policy Commission Meets

AU2507162390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1510 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—Senator Corneliu Manescu chaired the first session of the parliamentary foreign policy commission. The items on its agenda were filling the vacancies of the commission's bureau, adopting a decision on the foreign affairs activity of Romania's parliament, advising on international conventions and organizational matters.

It was decided that the Foreign Affairs Ministry be represented in the commission by Traian Chebeleu, a director at the Foreign Affairs Ministry. The bills on Romania's joining the European Organization for Telecommunications by Satellites and on the legal status of inland maritime waters be favourably advised.

Documents were distributed during the session in preparation for a joint session of the two chambers on foreign policy matters set for Friday [27 July] morning.

Senate Discusses Bill on Private Companies

AU2507164290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1500 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—Wednesday [25 July] morning, the Senate resumed discussions of the bill on reorganizing state economic units into autonomous companies and business societies. A number of questions were asked by senators, which the government and the ministries must ask.

Among the matters that were raised were a Senate commission to clarify the December 1989 events, a public report on the May election spending, the situation of the ex-party administration, AIDS preventive measures, medicine supplies for the population, measures against prostitution and homosexuality. The government was asked the state its future plans about prices, particularly for basic commodities, and the distribution of investment to counties.

Approval Received

AU2507182090 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1732 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—In continuation of its morning session, Romania's Senate debated and approved Articles 22 and 23, postponed for today, of the bill on reorganizing state economic enterprises as autonomous units and commercial companies.

Article 22 which was unanimously approved provides for the foundation of the National Privatization Agency under government's subordination the attributions of which are to be set in a special law, while its organizational structure under government's decision.

Article 23, endorsed with six abstentions, was here and there amended stipulating that the commercial companies set up according to the law will give the national privatization agency securities accounting for 20 per cent of the set social capital amount after 30 days since their foundation.

With the titles received as a basis, the privatization agency will issue bonds worth 5,000 lei, each, to be equally and free of charge distributed to all the Romanian citizens beyond 18 settled in the country, who worked in an enterprise, institution or cooperative farm for at least five years. Those who were convicted or punished for criminal offences shall not benefit by such bonds.

Taking the floor after the approval of the two articles, Mr. Adrian Severin, minister, assistant to the prime minister for reform and relations with the parliament, stated that the endorsement of Article 23 was a major step toward economic reforms in Romania.

In the afternoon session, heated debates were held on Article 45 of the aforementioned bill, after which the senators approved, with no difficulty, all the articles of the bill giving thus the country the most important legislative act in the transition to a market economy.

After the approval of the bill the session concluded. Plenary works will be resumed Thursday [26 July] morning when another seven bills are to be discussed.

Assembly Debates Reorganizing State Enterprises

AU2507203290 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1843 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—After long debates, the Assembly of Deputies reached a consensus in its Wednesday [25 July] morning session on the dispositions of the bill regarding the reorganization of state economic enterprises as autonomous units and commercial companies. The dispositions refer to the organization and functioning of autonomous units and commercial companies, to the way of their being influenced by the state in appropriately carrying on their activity, to the personnel's payment and other aspects. Of the numerous amendments proposed, the deputies kept the pertinent ones since they view the bill as a fundamental normative act in the transition to a market economy in Romania.

In its afternoon session, the Assembly of Deputies debated and approved all the 56 articles of the bill, but for articles 23, 44 and 45 which are to be re-examined by the specialty commissions and submitted again to the assembly's plenum in its Thursday morning session.

Current Trade Balance Deficit Figures Released

AU2507173590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1638 GMT 25 Jul 90

["Constantin Fota's Press Conference"—ROMPRES headline]

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—With imports exceeding exports by about 800 million rubles and nearly 800 million U.S. dollars, Romania recorded a balance-of-trade deficit in the past half-year, Romanian Minister of Trade and Tourism Constantin Fota told Romanian and foreign journalists Tuesday [24 July]. However, he said, Romania's foreign indebtedness is still zero as imports were paid for with the hard currency reserves originating in interest on earlier loans that will continue to be received in the period ahead.

On home trade problems, the minister showed that retail sales in the first six months of the year had been 18.8 percent, up on the same period last year.

On tourism, he said more than 150,000 tourists—of which 11,000 foreign—were on holiday in mountain or sea resorts. Tourist facilities are 96.9 per cent full, and there are places where the occupancy degree is 100 per cent, he added.

The minister ended his press conference by outlining the organizational structure of his ministry showing that its staff was nearly halved and the number of dignitaries is four times smaller than before.

New 'Center-Left Alliance' Established

AU2607084790 Bucharest ADEVARUL in Romanian 10 Jul 90 p 2

[Ilie Stefan article: "Center-Left (Social-Democratic) Alliance Set Up"]

[Text] Determined to play an ever more active role in the country's political and socioeconomic life, a number of political organizations are regrouping their forces by setting up alliances and cartels. Thus, the Alliance for Democracy Party, the Cooperative Party, the Democratic Party of Labor, the Romanian Party for the New Society, and the Socialist Party of Justice (Independent) have recently set up the Center-Left Alliance, which aims at defending, consolidating, and promoting the heroic achievements of the December 1989 revolution.

"As is well known," the communique adopted on that occasion points out, "our parties have supported Mr. Ion Iliescu's candidacy for Romania's Presidency, considering him a solid guarantee of the stability of our national and social destinies. Our parties firmly advocate that our people, and they alone, should decide the country's destiny, without any kind of political interference from outside. The alliance will promote an active and constructive opposition. At the same time, we are fully aware of the fact that we must act in the spirit of national consensus, on the basis of the principles of full equality and cooperation among all political parties and groups, so as to implement the freely expressed will of all the people.

"The Center-Left (Social-Democratic) Alliance is open to all political parties and groups which adhere to the principles, norms, and values of a true democracy, a new and ever more prosperous Romania, and the observance and promotion of human rights in a humane society for all people. We speak out for an effective and efficient dialogue with all forces willing to implement these principles, and we are prepared to implement them without any kind of concessions or preconditions. Now, more than ever before," the communique points out in conclusion, "it is necessary to pool all efforts to ensure that the sacrifice made by the heroes of the revolution will become the foundation of our consensus and determination to build a truly free, united, and dignified Romania."

Of late, one can notice a phenomenon which cannot go undetected by even the less knowledgeable people, namely the trend toward a concentration of various political groups with similar platforms. The Center-Left (Social Democratic) Alliance has put forward most generous goals and aims designed to take the country along the road of real democracy and prosperity for all people.

Roman Receives Writers Union Delegation

AU2507191190 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1510 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—The prime minister of Romania, Mr. Petre Roman, met Wednesday [25 July] with members of the Steering Committee of the Writers' Union of Romania.

The union's president, Mr. Mircea Dinescu, forwarded a memorandum in which the writers urge on "the serious danger menacing the survival of the national literature and culture." Reference was made to the actually dramatic situation of fiction books given the fact that all printing works in the country, except for the Bucharest Polygraphic Combine, refuse to conclude contracts with state and department publishing houses giving priority to the "numberless publications" and "pirate books." The union's president requested government's assistance in settling such problems, including the dissemination of literary books and reviews.

Premier Petre Roman assured them of government's full support in this transitional period mentioning that the paper balance would favour the book production, both belletristic and technical and scientific.

Roman Attends Holy Synod Meeting, Sees Patriarch

AU2507191390 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
1800 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—Wednesday, July 25, Romania's Prime Minister Petre Roman took part in a meeting of the Holy Synod of the Romanian Orthodox Church. During the debates, His Beatitude Patriarch Teoctist of Romania expressed his gratitude for the attention the country's leadership pays to the Romanian Orthodox Church in its effort to regain the place it deserves in the spiritual life of Romanian society, and requested government's further support to this live body, a centuries-old bearer of national traditions and patriotic virtues, of the Romanian language and culture.

Referring to government's actions, Premier Petre Roman assured the members of the Holy Synod of the government's goodwill in meeting the demands of the church and in backing its actions for the recovery of the cult patrimony and the development of theological education, as it is aware that the servants of the Romanian Orthodox Church are strong allies in Christianly educating the people.

Bucharest Mayor Seeks Housing, Public Services

AU2507120790 Bucharest ROMPRES in English
0933 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—Starting July 23, 1990 Romania's capital city has a new mayor general: Mr. Stefan Ciurel, construction engineer.

In an interview granted to ROMPRES news agency editors, the new mayor referred at length to the measures to be taken by Bucharest's inhabitants.

Making reference to the deficiencies he is confronted with—public transport, dwellings construction, ensurance of water and heat, cleaning services—Stefan Ciurel specified that almost 5 million dollars have been allotted for their solving. At the same time he underscored that only 10-11,000 flats—out of the 13,000 flats promised at the beginning of the year—would be commissioned. In connection with that issue he stated that appeal would be made to ministries and counties with available work force. About 24,000 flats are to be built next year. The capital city's mayorship also intends to urge the construction of the new underground railways, to strengthen the autonomy of Bucharest's sectors, to modernize thoroughfares, to build new schools, etc.

Mr. Stefan Ciurel was born in Bucharest in 1932. He graduated from the Construction Institute. He was director-general of the Bucharest Constructions Central Department, technical manager of the underground enterprise, and in the recent past he worked at the Ministry of National Economy.

Romulus Neagu on Improving Hungarian Ties

LD2507104190 Budapest MTI in English
0946 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Budapest, 25 Jul (MTI)—"The proposals we have brought to Budapest touch all fields of bilateral co-operation. We are prepared to survey all ties of a political, legal and economic nature, as well as consular relations which are so important today," said Romulus Neagu, the Romanian state secretary of foreign affairs, in an interview carried by the Wednesday [25 July] issue of the 'MAGYAR HIRLAP'. The politician, who arrived in Budapest on Tuesday, has already started negotiations with his Hungarian partners.

In reply to a question, Neagu said:

"It is not my main goal to prepare the groundwork for the foreign ministers' talks. I, too, am also a member of the government, and in that capacity, I believe it appropriate for me to discuss international issues. Our aim is more comprehensive and more profound. We would like to open the gate to all forms of bilateral co-operation so that work groups might, at a later date, be able to put the finishing details to all issues agreed on in Budapest. Of course, there may well be a meeting at a higher level, involving the respective heads of state, when both the Hungarian and the Romanian sides deem it timely."

Q: In late December, after the dramatic turn of events, we cherished the hope that Hungarian-Romanian relations would normalize. This still remains a vain hope, primarily due to the treatment of the Hungarian minority. Are you ready to discuss this issue with your hosts?

A: You're right. Initially we attached great hopes to the development of relations between Budapest and Bucharest. Unfortunately, the atmosphere has changed. I don't want to speak about the causes, suffice it to say, both sides were blamed. I've come here to hold frank discussions on practical issues. I'm prepared to negotiate all international issues...We will also be able to exchange views on the internal affairs of our respective countries and, within this framework, I will set forth the Romanian Government's position concerning the various ethnic minorities, the way we intend to deal with them and the right that they can expect in the future," said Romulus Neagu.

IMF Delegation Visits, Urges Economic Reforms

AU2507162590 Bucharest ROMPRES in English 1501 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Bucharest, 25 Jul (ROMPRES)—Annual consultations between Romanian authorities and an International Monetary Fund mission led by Thomas Wolf, assistant director for Europe were held at the Ministry of Finance over 20-21 July 1990. They concentrated on an analysis of the course of the Romanian economy in the past few years.

The IMF missions summed its findings that evinced both the serious situation of the Romanian economy, and the need that the reform programme of the authorities should be put to work as fast as possible, which must bring with it foreign economic and financial aid, the mission said.

The consultations pointed to the improved relations between Romania and the IMF and IMF readiness to grant upon request technical assistance to Romania in the banking, fiscal and budgetary areas.

TANJUG Reports Markovic's Televised Interview

LD2607005590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 2218 GMT 24 Jul 90

[Text] Skopje, 24 Jul (TANJUG)—The Federal Executive Council [FEC] program is not the program of one man, but of the whole country, and it deserves support from all progressive and democratically oriented people whose ambition it is to do something for this country. At stake is the fate of the whole country and generations which should live in a more human, honest and democratic manner than we have, with far more opportunities for a more cultured and civilized life.

With these words FEC President Ante Markovic summed up his almost three-hour address to the nation via the Skopje Radio-Television program, "Open Screen."

Speaking about the new reform steps of the Federal Government and its talks with the republican leaderships, Markovic said that the FEC talked to all of them frankly, directly and exclusively on the basis of its program. He discussed, using the power of argument, all the relevant issues in order to ascertain whether, on the basis of that program, it is possible to constitute an efficient economy and law-governed state.

Every republic is prepared to remain within the framework of the federation, Markovic stressed. We have decided to build a joint society and for this we need time. The question is now, whether because of lack of time we halt the reforms or whether, without obstructing everyday life, we facilitate the further advance of changes. The FEC has decided on the latter and considers that the package of economic measures is a major political event.

The new package of reforms is more important than the previous one, because everything that we have done so far was only a precondition for finding ourselves at the present level and carrying through fundamental reforms.

In order to embark upon real changes, however, Markovic stressed, the structure of ownership must be changed.

It is not possible to change the structure of industry, the economy and society without a change in ownership. The FEC's aim is to introduce ownership democracy, which will also alter administrative relations. Without defined ownership there can be no capital market and no labor market.

This is why the FEC went for a law on earnings which envisages shares and bonds, although this is a kind of surrogate necessary for this transitional period. The Federal Government expects that the sale of shares and bonds will realize in 10 years from 75 to 80 billion dollars necessary for further development. Social ownership would be sold in this way to workers, citizens and pension funds, and the law on this is no sort of coercion, but rather an attempt to compensate for a legal vacuum. There was also the alternative of nationalization of property, Markovic stressed, and added immediately that this would have set us back 40 years and led to a situation where we would experience the fate of state socialism, which is collapsing because of its inefficiency.

The changes which the FEC is advocating will put everything right, Markovic stressed, because until the structure of ownership is changed, we will have parties on the political stage which will be formed on the basis of national, religious or any kind of "anti" ideas, which may also be anticommunist. These parties, and those which have come to power, have no economic program, because there does not exist an ownership structure for which they could opt.

The structure of ownership has remained the same and the structures built upon it have remained untouched, and this is why parties are expressing themselves through national and other emotions, and even mythological manifestations.

Only the FEC, Ante Markovic stressed, has an economic program which enjoys support in the world, to the extent that those who decide on secession will also be forced to go into Europe with the FEC program.

Going on to speak in greater detail about the constitutional changes, Ante Markovic stressed in the Skopje RTV program "Open Screen" that all the amendments to the Yugoslav Constitution, which introduce new political and economic relations, will be passed.

There exist, however, serious reservations and criticisms, and certain proposals which will not be accepted, above all those which relate to major changes in internal relations.

What is most important, Markovic stressed, is that we have agreed that those amendments which are not acepted now should not be considered as not adopted but as open to further coordination, which will enable us to see at elections and afterward whether our people are in favor of these similar changes.

Ante Markovic then spoke about the improper behavior of the major monopolies. He described the increase in prices of oil derivatives as administrative decisions by the republican governments and assessed them as improper. With these decisions the governments of Slovenia, Croatia and Serbia, were behaving in an improper manner not only vis-a-vis the FEC, but also the oil industry which the FEC has released from 20 percent of its sales tax in order to improve all its problems. What is happening now is monopolistic behavior by the powerful created by the consensus economy, and they are now struggling not only to maintain their position, but also to seek changes which suit only them.

They want us to return in part to what used to be, that we should have low inflation and continue to keep and rescue the economy which we do not need. [as received] As for the blockades, Markovic underlined, reality and life have overturned them. The convertibility of the Yugoslav currency has opened for us, not only the doors to the world, explained the prime minister, but also our internal borders. We have also achieved, he stressed, all the conditions for the external convertibility of the dinar.

As for the price of wheat, another issue giving rise to lack of confidence in the government, Markovic said that—in a year which had a high yield—it is not right to form non-market prices. He explained the government's decision to import flour if needed by saying there is no economic logic in having a good harvest and high wheat prices.

The FEC guarantees it will purchase all agricultural surplus. It will purchase around 300,000 tonnes of wheat at a market price. In a year that will yield a total of 6.2 million tonnes of wheat, part of it can be exported. But, we must fight monopoly in this sector by opening borders for the import of flour, above all to bring about the influence of the international market in our country.

Replying to the questions of viewers throughout Yugoslavia, President Markovic covered several problems. First, he rejected claims by certain papers about conflicts with the federal secretary for national defense; then he spoke about the need to coordinate pensions and create a fund for their payment at the same time. He touched upon the questions of nationalization and reprivatization, Kosovo, and the human rights of our minorities in neighboring countries.

Kosovo is a major social, human, and political problem, said Markovic. I am an advocate of democratic dialogue and of finding solutions to the Kosovo problem by democratic means. As for the declaration by the recently suspended Kosovo Assembly, Markovic said it is not good to adopt a document which can be understood as a demand for secession. However, it is also not a good thing to suspend an Assembly, which is without precedent in our country.

Questions of human and citizens' rights for our minorities, stressed President Markovic, will be solved by democratization in these countries, referring above all to Bulgaria and Romania. The entry of these countries into Europe is not possible when normal human rights are negated there. As for the Macedonians in Greece, Markovic said Greece refuses every dialogue and insists on talking only about transport.

We will need a great deal of patience to achieve expression of the Macedonian minority's rights in these countries, and matters will be put right with democratic logic.

At the end of his interview for Skopje Radio and TV, Markovic said the FEC program deserves the support of everyone, in particular because citizens in their workplaces are specifically fighting for reforms so that new generations will live better than the previous ones.

Serbs in Croatia Declare Sovereignty, Autonomy

LD2507123290 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0936 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Srb, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—During their meeting in Srb this morning the presidents of the Croatian municipalities of Vukovar, Glina, Vojnic, Vrgin Most, Knin, Obrovac, Graca, Donji Lapac, Korenica, and Benkovac in which Serbians are in the majority, the representatives of the Serbian Democratic Party [Srpska Demokratska Stranka] led by Dr. Jovan Raskovic, deputies in the Croatian Assembly, and representitives of the Serbian Orthodox Church adopted a declaration on the sovereignty and autonomy of Serbians in Croatia which is expected to be proclaimed at the all-Serbian rally which is expected to begin early this afternoon.

According to initial impressions some 50,000 people have assembled in Srb. Many Serbian banners with four "s" letters have been displayed, but Yugoslav and Serbian banners with socialist markings have been noticed as well. Chetnik Commander Vojislav Seselj has appeared with a Chetnik banner.

'Almost 200,000' Rally in Support

AU2507184290 Belgrade Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1330 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] The Serbian gathering [Srpski Sabor] at Srb proclaimed null and void—for the Serbian people in Croatia—all the constitutional and legal changes that negate their sovereignty and reduce their autonomous rights. This is one of the provisions of the declaration on the sovereignty and autonomy of the Serbian people in Croatia which was adopted by acclamation by almost 200,000 people who came to the rally from Lika, Dalmatia, Kordun, Bosnia- Hercegovina, and other parts of Yugoslavia. Dragan Stavljanin reports:

[Begin Stavljanin recording] On the basis of their sovereignty, the Serbian people in Croatia have a right to autonomy. The declaration goes on to stress that under the conditions of a federal state system, the Serbian people have the right to an unhindered and unrestricted use of the Serbian language, the Cyrillic script, schools, cultural and political institutions, enterprises, the press, and a Serbian radio and television, in a word: the right to cultural autonomy.

If, however, Yugoslavia were a confederation, the Serbian people in Croatia would have the right to their political and territorial autonomy. The organization of such an autonomy can be implemented only through full communal self-management, especially in the communes where the Serbian people have a majority, and through the communes being linked to form communities.

A Serbian National Council was also elected. The declaration was signed by the presidents of the communes in which the Serbs have a majority, by the deputies of the Serbian Democratic Party in the Croatian Assembly, and by representatives of the Serbian Orthodox Church.

The essence of the declaration was explained by Academician Jovan Raskovic, president of the Serbian Democratic Party. He said that the Serbian gathering was convened not to negate the existence of the Croatian Assembly, but because rights are being denied the Serbs. The Serbian people do not want fights and legal suits, we do not need any arms. We only wish to remind others that we exist, and that we were living here even before a Croatian state was created. We obtained these territories from Austria-Hungary because we earned them with blood and sweat.

Raskovic then pointed out that it is a strange logic that calls any gathering of Serbs a danger and a negation of the Croatian people. We are not against any people whatsoever, but we are against the Ustasha Movement which is expanding. Whenever we feel a danger from the Ustasha Movement, we will rally.

The gathering today is a Serbian uprising, but not an uprising in arms. We will not take up arms, because we believe that evil will destroy itself.

Raskovic then referred to his talks with Tudjman the day before yesterday. I could reach an agreement with Tudjman, he said, but Tudjman is restricted by the Ustasha core in the Croatian Democratic Community. We will continue to negotiate, but we will not beg anybody.

The Serbs accept Croatia as their homeland. We advocate a modern community in which all have the same rights, so that Serbian children can play peacefully with Croatian children, Raskovic stressed.

Status Depends on SFRY 'Structure'

LD2507171190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1513 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Srb, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—At an all-Serbian assembly held in Srb, the center of the Lika municipality of Lapac, with about 100,000 people taking part, the Serbs in Croatia greeted with applause the declaration of sovereignty and autonomy of the Serbian nation living, as the declaration states, "in the historical territories united by the present borders of the socialist republic [SR] of Croatia, and which gives them the right to determine with whom and under what regime they will live, and how they will integrate with the other nations in Yugoslavia."

The content of today's proclaimed autonomy will depend on the federal, or confederal, structure of Yugoslavia, and on the behavior of the new government in Croatia, which up until now has, with its insistance on the amendments to the Croat Constitution, been unacceptable to the Serbian nation.

This is why today's assembly has proclaimed as invalid for the Serbian nation in Croatia all constitutional and legal changes which negate its sovereignty and reduce its autonomy right. The assembly of Serbs in Srb is a direct reply to the Croat Assembly which is today proclaiming the amendments to the Croat Constitution, and the five Serbian deputies were today at the assembly in Srb instead of in Zagreb.

Stressing several times that he will behave toward the Croat state as it deserves, Dr. Jovan Raskovic said that today's assembly of Serbs is, in fact, an uprising of the Serbian nation in Croatia, but without arms. Calling on the Croat people to think carefully about the kind of government they want, the Serbian national leader stresses that, if necessary, the Serbs will fight the Ustashas, but not the Croatian people. In his view, this Serbian assembly and the proclamation of autonomy is rendering Croatia stable, but destabilizing Ustasha Croatia.

"We want the Sebian nation to be united on the entire territory which belongs to it, which was fataly broken up by Josip Broz and Kardelj. Let Croatia create special detachments, but let them never consider sending them against us. The Croat leadership can see in Srb today how solid is the fact which they want to erase—the Serbian nation in Croatia. It is a curious logic which sees every gathering of Serbs as a geture directed against Croats, with whom we have no quarrel. We are only against the Ustashas and Ustasha ideology.

It seems to me that I could talk with Tudjman, because I received the impression that he really wants a modern and democratic Croatia. However, he is hampered by a part of the Croatian Democratic Community with which I want no contact, Jovan Raskovic said, announcing the setting up of Serbian television in Croatia, for which funds will be found abroad as well.

Jovo Opacic demanded that the Croat Assembly reject the amendments to "prevent the bloody drama of a confrontation of the Croatian and Serbian nations," since otherwise "today's proclaimed autonomy will be translated into political autonomy, and that is the first phase of the creation of a Serbian state." [passage omitted]

Tudjman on 'Kosovization'

LD2507102390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0841 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Zagreb, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—At the beginning of the two-day Croatian Assembly session today, Dr. Franjo Tudjman, president of the Croatian Presidency, invited all deputies to display common sense and work for the preservation of democratic achievements in this republic. He drew attention, as he put it, to "a scenario leading to Kosovization and destabilization of the republic and the wish to stage-manage clashes and provoke the need for armed intervention."

According to Tudjman the rally of Serbians in Srb today is part and parcel of this scenario. His evaluation is that the rally "has not be provoked by any harmful actions that the Croatian authorities may have taken against the Serb population."

The president of the Croatian Presidency explained at length the initiative regarding the adoption of the new republicn constitution. The Croatian Assembly is pursuing its business of discussing 12 amendments to the present 16-year-old republican constitution and a number of acts of federal and republican significance.

'Provoke' Need for 'Intervention'

LD2507142990 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1133 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Zagreb, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—At the beginning of a two-day Croat Assembly session today, Dr. Franjo Tudjman, president of the Presidency of the socialist republic of Croatia, in a special address devoted to the current political situation, invited all the deputies and all the parties to display common sense and help preserve democratic and national achievements in Croatia.

Tudjman drew attention to "the fact that we are confronting a scenario which is designed to Kosovize and destabilize Croatia and provoke the need for armed and military intervention." According to Dr. Tudjman, the aim is to bring down the legitimately elected newly established authority in Croatia recognized, among others, by the Yugoslav Presidency.

"Underground forces, not only in Yugoslavia but outside the country as well, are working to upset and destabilize what we have achieved in Croatia, because if democratic rule in Croatia is brought down, democratic rule in Slovenia will be brought down as well. These are the verbatim statements that have come to our knowledge, made during meetings held over the past few weeks, in line with the scenario in which such meetings are held by the allegedly threatened Serb (?population)," said Tudjman.

"On behalf of the Croat leadership, I want to assure you that we shall do everything to foil such attempts. We have adequate political forces in Croatia today; we also have the support of the democratic world. And please let no one believe that he will be able to pursue his crazy, fanatical, and unrealistic policy, or whatever some scenarios commit him to do," said Tudjman.

Tudjman drew attention to the fact that another meeting was taking place at the same time as the session of the Croat Assembly. The meeting has not been provoked "by any of our harmful actions toward the Serb population, but has been rigged or stage managed."

Tudjman informed the deputies that he is personally receiving letters and invitations from many Serb citizens in Croatia who believe that what is happening in Croatia—with the attempts to mobilize Serb people brought in from other areas, such as Bosnia and Serbia—is the work of the notorious instigators of the so-called "anti-bureaucratic revolution." In Tudjman's view, this is being done to divert the attention of the Yugoslav and world public from events in Serbia, where the Serb government has abolished autonomy in Kosovo.

Speaking of his contacts in the country, Tudjman stressed that in the quest for a way out of the economic and sociopolitical crisis in Yugoslavia, there is now a general consensus of opinion that "no one can impose his will on anyone." There is a great degree of agreement and identity of views with the Slovene leadership. The Bosnia and Hercegovina leadership accepts the Croat view, although it is more inclined to the federal system, he said.

Tudjman said that as early as tomorrow he will hold talks with the Macedonian leadership. (?Talks will also be held with) the Serb and Montenegrin leaderships.

Tudjman ended his address on the current political situation with the assessment that it is the historic responsibility of all parties to preserve the democracy and sovereignty of all citizens of Croatia. This responsibility transcends party interests.

Croat Assembly Adopts Constitutional Amendments

LD2507151090 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1604 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Zagreb, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—Amendments to the republican Constitution were proclaimed today at a joint session of all three chambers of the Croatian Assembly. According to these amendments the word "socialist" which precedes the name Republic of Croatia is dropped, and the coat of arms is now "the historical Croatian coat of arms" consisting of 25 red and white squares. This coat of arms will as from now stand on the Croatian tri-color, replacing the red star.

Representatives of the "left bloc" refused to participate in the procedure of changing amendment 68 which abolishes the possibility of decision making by a two-thirds majority on the intiative of ten deputies on questions concerning intranational relations.

Further on Changes

LD2507213690 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2040 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Zagreb, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—By lowering the flag with the red five-pointed star and hoisting the new flag of the Republic of Croatia with the red-white checkered "historical Croatian coat of arms" in front of the Assembly building in Zagreb, the adoption of amendments to the constitution of this Yugoslav republic was formally marked today.

Croatia is Yugoslavia's second republic which today dropped from its name the word "socialist" after Slovenia did the same.

Article 1 in the Croatian Constitution was amended to read that "The Republic of Croatia is the vehicle of political and economic sovereignty."

Changes in the constitution also introduced the posts of president of the republic and six vice-presidents instead of the collective presidency of the Republic of Croatia, while the name of the Executive Council was altered into the Government of the Republic of Croatia, introducing ministers instead of republican secretaries.

The amendment was adopted by majority vote that "in addition to the obligatory official use of the latin alphabet, in the administrative units with majority population using also the cyrillic script, the uses of both scripts should be guaranteed, as would be regulated by law."

Deputies of the "left bloc" voted against the changes in state symbols and against the provisions about the uses of the latin and cyrillic scripts. They also declined to participate in any way in the voting on the abolition of the two-thirds majority decision-making, asserting that the voting on this matter had been raised unconstitutionally.

Also decided was that the work on the promulgation of the republic's new constitution should be started immediately.

New Appointments Made to Croat Assembly Bodies

LD2507134390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1020 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Zagreb, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—Five new chairmen of the Croat Assembly working bodies and eight government senior officials were appointed during the joint Croat Assembly session this morning.

Dr. Zarko Domljan of the Croat Democratic Community [Hrvatska Demokratska Zajednica—HDZ] was appointed chairman of the Croat Assembly Foreign Policy Committee. Alceo Frank, of the League of Communists of Croatia-Party of Democratic Changes [SKH-SPD] was appointed chairman of the committee for maritime industry. Nikola Kocijan (SKH-SPD) was appointed chairman of the committee for transport and communications.

Ivan Lucev (HDZ) is the new chairman of the committee for information, while Dr. Ante Kutle (HDZ) will be in charge of the committee for nature and human environment protection.

Dr. Zvonimir Medvedovic, a member of the Croat Executive Council, has been appointed chairman of the republican committee for commodity trade. Marian Crnja, who until now has been chairman of the republican Committee for war veterans and disabled affairs, has been put in charge of the republican Labor and Employment Committee.

Dr. Marijan Hanzekovic is the new chairman of the republican Finance Secretariat. Dr. Josip Boziecevic was appointed to head the republican committee for shipping, transport and communications, while Janko Vranyczany-Dobrinovic will be in charge of the committee for tourism. Branko Bergman will be the chairman of the republican committee for the water industry. He is the only member of the previous republican government appointed to the new Executive Council. The Croat Assembly appointed Luka Stojakovic deputy chairman of the republican committee for agriculture and forestry. It also relieved Miroslav Bulatovic of his duties as deputy chairman of the committee for war veterans and disabled affairs.

Federal Chamber Committee Supports Serb Assembly

AU2607112390 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 25 Jul 90 p 1

[D. Pusonjic report: "Support For—Sweating"]

[Excerpt] Belgrade—"We will see whether there will be peace or not." This statement by Zarija Martinovic at yesterday's session of the Committee for Sociopolitical Relations of the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly, which was characterized by quarrels, amply illustrates what was said during a six-hour discussion on the initiative launched by 13 Albanian delegates that the Federal Chamber should assess the consequences of the Kosovo Assembly and government being dissolved. After a great battle the committee adopted by a majority vote (seven "for," six "against," and three "abstentions") three resolutions. First, the committee agreed with the assessments of the SFRY Presidency (that the Kosovo declaration was an act adopted on the street, and the Serbian measures were a constitutional move); second, the Federal Chamber should not ask the Constitutional Court of Yugoslavia to express its view on the measures adopted by the Serbian Assembly; and third, the Federal Executive Council should today brief the Federal Chamber on its views on the declaration and the suspension of the provincial organs. [passage omitted]

Federal Assembly Said Split on Kosovo Issue

LD2607000190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2156 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—A request by a group of delegates of Albanian nationality for an analysis to be made about the decision of Yugoslavia's biggest republic, Serbia, to suspend the Assembly of the Province of Kosovo which is in its composition, has caused contrasted assessments among the members of the Federal Chamber of the Assembly of Yugoslavia so that after 50 deputies took floor it was decided that the relevant conclusions on this point should be carried tomorrow.

After the deputies of Albanian nationality on July 2 had voted a declaration which equalizes Kosovo with the other Yugoslav federal units, the parliament of Serbia suspended three days later the local assembly and government in the troubled southern province.

The Albanian nationality delegates in the Federal Assembly maintain that the decision made by Serbia was unconstitutional and that it was a prelude to the abolition of provinces. Their view was that the leadership of Serbia was not showing "even the minimum of political will for a peaceful solution of the situation in Kosovo," was "threatening with force and war, and that it was opposing dialogues." The decision of the Assembly of Serbia questions the relations within the Yugoslav federation of six republics and two provinces, they appraised.

Delegates from Serbia and those of Serbian nationality from Kosovo, supported by their colleagues from Montenegro and Macedonia, assessed that the declaration of the Kosovo deputies was "a treacherous act and an attempt to carry out a coup and to break the authorities and social order by force," so that the decision by Serbia had been its obligation towards the preservation of unity of this republic and of Yugoslavia. Under the decision of the Kosovo Assembly, a nationality becomes a nation and the Kosovo, as a republic, would gain the right to secede—they pointed out.

Delegates from Croatia assessed that the unlawful conduct of the Kosovo Assembly could have been prevented in a constitutional and legal manner, rather than by what they regarded as a Serbian law that contradicts the political system and constitutional order of Yugoslavia. One Slovenian representative, however, called that the Assembly of Kosovo should renew its activity and that within it a dialogue between deputies of the different nationalities should be opened.

Federal secretary for Judiciary and Administration Dr Vlado Kambovski said in the debate that the [word indistinct] constitutional changes and the changes in the country's economic and political system were the only way to transcend the very bad political situation in the country. It would be wrong to look at the Kosovo declaration and at Serbia's reaction to this unconstitutional act unrelated to the whole context and in that way block the constitutional changes, he said.

Assistant Federal Secretary for Internal Affairs Jovan Vuckovic, however, assessed that the assertions concerning the abuses and illegal uses of arms in Kosovo represented lies and manipulations, and these could have been heard from Albanian deputies also during today's debate. Only three more cases are now being investigated, and in one case, when a person was driven over, criminal proceedings were started, he informed.

Albanian 'Mafia' Alleged To Finance Kosovo Groups

AU2507124990 Zagreb VJESNIK in Serbo-Croatian 20 Jul 90 p 3

[Unattributed report: "The Mafia Pays for Everything"]

[Text] Pristina—The Pristina newspaper JEDINSTVO, which is printed in Serbo-Croatian, speculates again in its Thursday [19 July] edition about the alleged mutual settling of accounts by Zekerijah Cana and Ibrahim Rugova, leaders of the Albanian Alternative movement in Kosovo. JEDINSTVO first of all expresses its satisfaction with the fact that its edition, which carried a report on Cana firing a gun at Rugova, was bought in large numbers by Albanians. It then quotes Obrad Stevanovic, commander of the special units of the republican Secretariat for Internal Affairs. "This shooting incident is something that we are working on and still checking. Once we have finished our investigation, we will issue an official statement," Stevanovic said.

The newspaper then continues to speculate about what is happening among the leaders of the Kosovo Alternative movement. "The Alternative movement has different sources of finance. The Albanian mafia in the United States has obligated every American Albanian—of which there are 170,000—to contribute between $1,000 and $10,000, depending on their annual earnings, to Kosovo. Drug and arms smuggling is another way of financing the separatist movement, and 'voluntary contributions' are also collected from Kosovo Albanians, and not just wealthy ones. There is of course a system of 'inducements' organized by inconspicuous protectors.

It is therefore indisputable that huge amounts of money pass through the hands of the separatist leaders. The militia's raid on the editorial offices of the Albanian language channel of Pristina Television and the confiscation of the two million Deutsche marks [DM] which Agim Mala, the replaced director, kept in his closet not only frustrated separatist plans but also raised the controversial question of who uses these resources and how. Do the leaders of the alternative movement resist the temptation to put a little aside in their own accounts? Did the question of how much of the pie belongs to whom not in fact cause brawling and shooting? As well as buying arms, the vast sums that have been reaching Kosovo also finance strikes and demonstrations, so that each participant is paid DM 100. However, the fund is diminishing, as is shown by the fact that the 'price' of the strikers' daily expenses has fallen to DM 20 to 30. All this has had the effect of depressing the strikers' mood and reducing the standing of the 'republican' leaders," the article says.

Like everything in Kosovo, JEDINSTVO articles about this conflict have been received in two ways. The Serbs and Montenegrins express their satisfaction, while the Albanians, and particularly the alternative leadership, think that this is all a deliberate game, which perhaps also even includes the state security service, intended to sow discord among the leaders of the alternative organizations of Albanians in Kosovo.

Serbian Council Head Critical of FEC Policy

AU2507131290 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Jul 90 p 3

[D. Sverko and M. Torov report: "Mistrust Toward FEC's Measures"]

[Excerpts] Belgrade—We cannot be satisfied with the results that have been achieved so far in implementing the program of the Federal Executive Council [FEC]. Checking inflation is an important result, but, even if an equilibrium and stability of prices had been achieved, this has cost us too much in terms of an excessive fall in production, chaos in the distribution system, illiquidity, and the total collapse of the financial system. The FEC has not shown in any way that it recognizes the recessionary economic policy, on which it has been insisted, as the cause of the deepest economic depression since the war.

This was stated yesterday by Dr. Stanko Radmilovic, president of the Serbian Executive Council, in his introductory speech at a session of all three chambers of the Serbian Assembly discussing a report on the socioeconomic development for 1990. Radmilovic said that it would be totally unacceptable to conduct such an economic policy in the future, regardless of its aims.

As the delegates concluded, the new packet of the FEC's measures is unrealistically optimistic in the extremely unfavorable economic conditions. In fact, this refers to the 16 legal proposals which the FEC recently offered to the delegates of the Federal Chamber. Among them are the following: the law on social capital; the law on enterprise; the law on employment rights; the law on monetary, foreign exchange, custom duty, and credit policy; and the law on federal budget....

We insist that the FEC formulate such a development policy which would radically reduce interest rates. Moreover, as Stanko Radmilovic said, the FEC should do everything possible to ensure a normal flow in the consumption of goods and consumer durables, establish appropriate protection for domestic production, remove price disparities, and to do much more on intensifying investments and inducing development than only promise several million dollars worth of foreign loans of which almost nothing has been or will be made available. Unless the FEC immediately redefines its economic policy and makes it a development policy, that is, if it continues to insist not only on this recessionary but also crisis-generating concept, such an economic policy and the FEC will not be able to count on our support. The FEC will have to consider itself responsible for the destructive consequences which will inevitably arise.

The alternative to this dramatic crisis-generating concept is to increase economic efficiency in the Serbian economy. This could be achieved only if social enterprises transform themselves into truly entrepreneurial organizations with successful management whose objective should therefore be to make as large a profit as possible.

Stanko Radmilovic said that the question of agriculture is particularly important for Serbia. [passage omitted]

In the discussion, delegate Slobodan Vuckovic observed that there is a major disagreement with the FEC's stands, and that the views of other republics are still missing. In his view it would be premature to adopt a report that brings Serbia in confrontation with the government, and proposed that somebody from the FEC come to the Serbian assembly and acquaint himself with its views. [passage omitted]

The delegates will adopt final conclusions at the assembly session scheduled for Monday 23 July. The Executive Council of Serbia will formulate its conclusions taking into account today's discussion.

'Bans' on Serbian Democratic Party Explained

AU2507114790 Belgrade BORBA in Serbo-Croatian 20 Jul 90 p 5

[M. Lucic report: "Explanation of Bans"]

[Text] Sarajevo—Why were meetings of the Serbian Democratic Party banned in Titov Drvar and Trebinje (where one was nevertheless held) while the party's founding assembly, held in Sarajevo on 12 July, was not? This delegate question was put by Razvija Fetahagic at yesterday's session of the Sociopolitical Chamber of the Assembly of Bosnia-Hercegovina and Muhamed Besic, republican secretary in the Secretariat for Internal Affairs, was invited to explain.

Besic explained that the republican Secretariat for Internal Affairs had approved the holding of the founding assembly of the Serbian Democratic Party in Sarajevo as the party had applied for permission in time. Approval was given regardless of the fact that this party has a national element, since it is not the responsibility of the Secretariat for Internal Affairs to assess whether it is national or not, as this is to be assessed by a court when the party is registered, Besic said.

This party's meeting in Trebinje was also announced in time but it was banned because, as Besic said, the Serbian Democratic Party of Bosnia-Hercegovina had not been registered and cannot yet operate according to the law. He pointed out that the meeting had been held nonetheless and that the ban had not been withdrawn. Since the law had been broken, the Secretariat for Internal Affairs in Trebinje would be filing misdemeanor charges against eight of the organizers of the meeting once they had collected evidence, Besic stated.

The situation is quite different when it comes to the meeting of the Serbian Democratic Party in Titov Drvar, which was also registered in time with the police station. However, as this concerned a meeting by a branch of the Serbian Democratic Party from Knin, which is registered on the territory of another republic, approval was not given because the law in this republic does not permit activity by parties from other republics if they are not registered in this one too. According to Besic, the meeting was not held in Titov Drvar but the gathering lasted four and a half minutes while the ban was read.

The secretary of the republican Secretariat for Internal Affairs stressed in the Assembly yesterday that initiative committees of the Croatian Democratic Community were being set up in this republic and that these meetings were being held semi-illegally and in hotels, and that not one Secretariat for Internal Affairs had given their approval.

In the brief Assembly debate, Zivko Babic asked whether there was any possibility whatsoever of those who make insolent statements at many meetings held in this republic by political parties being answerable to the law. He cited the statement by Vinko Stupar at the founding assembly of the Serbian Democratic Party in Bosnia-Hercegovina in Sarajevo. As Babic said, according to press reports, he had said that the two greatest enemies of the Serbian people are the Vatican and the Comintern, that is to say Stepinac and Tito.

Eight Members Charged

AU2507131390 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 21 Jul 90 p 8

[S. Demirovic report: "Proceedings Against Eight Members of the Serbian Democratic Party"]

[Excerpt] Trebinje, 20 Jul—Following up the statement carried in today's press that was made by Muhamed Besic, republican secretary for internal affairs, in the Sociopolitical Chamber of the Assembly of the Socialist Republic of Bosnia-Hercegovina, to the effect that the communal Secretariat for Internal Affairs in Trebinje had not withdrawn the ban on the founding assembly of the Serbian Democratic Party for Bosnia-Hercegovina but that, on the contrary, misdemeanor charges had been filed against eight people who had organized that meeting, we contacted the appropriate service in the communal Secretariat for Internal Affairs in Trebinje. It was confirmed that proceedings are under way against eight people, including the academician Dr. Jovan Raskovic from Sibenik, Dr. Radovan Karadzic from Sarajevo, Jova Opacic from Knin, Novak Kilibarda from Niksic, Jovan Aleksic from Zadar, Milan Skero from Sarajevo, Mirko Stupar from Banja Luka, and Gojko Djogo from Belgrade. All these people publicly participated in this meeting. [passage omitted]

Serbian Council Delegation Leaves for USSR

LD2507132390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1110 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—A delegation of the Serbian Assembly Executive Council led by Council President Stanko Radmilovic left today for a brief working visit to the Russian Soviet Federated Socialist Republic [RSFSR] and the USSR.

In addition to talks with Ivan Silayev, chairman of the RSFSR Council of Ministers and his aides, the Serbian delegation will also have talks with S. Sitaryan, deputy chairman of the USSR Council of Ministers, and representatives of Serbian firms in the Soviet Union.

Slovene Sovereignty Declaration Debate Postponed

LD2507124590 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0811 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—At the proposal of delegate Peter Hedzet, the SFRY Assembly's Federal Chamber has decided to remove from the agenda a debate on the legal consequences of the "Declaration on the Sovereignty of Slovenia." The reason for the decision is the fact that the relevant documents are not available in all the languages of the nations and nationalities. The Federal Chamber will set in motion an investigation to establish why the rules of procedure were not applied in this case.

Slovenia's Bucar on Declaration, Consensus

AU2607075190 Ljubljana DEMOKRACIJA in Slovene 10 Jul 90 p 6

[Interview with France Bucar, president of the Slovene Assembly, by Jadran Vatovec; place and date not given: "Declaration Expresses the Feeling of Slovenes"]

[Text] [Vatovec] Mr. President, in your opinion, is the current political moment the most suitable for the adoption of such an act, and do you think that the proposal of the Declaration [on the Sovereignty of the State of the Republic of Slovenia] could have been better prepared?

[Bucar] I must say that such a declaration should have been more professionally prepared. The proposer should have first coordinated the draft with other political parties, because such a political document carries weight only if it represents a generally accepted political consensus. There should be agreement on the nature of such an act; whether it is a political act, or an act under constitutional law, and what are its political consequences. Considering all that I have said, at least the opposition displayed a great deal of understanding. I do not know whether this was simply a move resulting from the realistic political realization that they could not renounce it. They acted rationally and helped us to overcome all the problems of a formal legal nature.

It is difficult to say whether the most suitable moment was chosen. Certainly the adoption of the Declaration was an act in tune with the general political feeling in Slovenia.

[Vatovec] Have the opposition delegates specifically opposed any part of the proposed Declaration?

[Bucar] I did not participate in the work of the commission editing the final draft. At the joint assembly session, the opposition objected to the procedure for adopting the Declaration. There were no objections, so to speak, on the content, because such an act was to be expected sooner or later, and the explanation was acceptable.

[Vatovec] Do you perhaps know whether the Slovene Government earlier expressed a need for adopting such an act?

[Bucar] As far as I know, the government discussed the proposal only during the Assembly session, and took a position and decided on what activities should accompany the adoption of the Declaration.

[Vatovec] What do you think about reproaches that the adoption of the Declaration should have been put on the agenda only after a referendum?

[Bucar] I do not think that this is right. The political significance of the Declaration is, above all, that it forced the federal organs to consider a completely new political situation, and begin acting accordingly. Regarding the response or reaction both in Yugoslavia and, more broadly, internationally, the Declaration has achieved its initial successes.

It is very significant that it is now possible for the Slovene government and Assembly to adopt a number of normative acts to regulate various fields where a vacuum had existed because of broad federal powers.

[Vatovec] What do you think about the cooperation of the Slovene Assembly in amending the SFRY Constitution?

[Bucar] We do not recognize the primacy of the federal Constitution, because the republican Constitution is fundamental. I think that the question of the federal Constitution has nevertheless been pushed to the background because it is realistic to expect that mutual relations would be regulated by a confederal treaty on the basis of successful agreements in Yugoslavia. I personally think that it is almost unnecessary to work for the reshaping of the federal Constitution now.

[Vatovec] In the disentanglement of the Yugoslav knot, what is the significance of the adoption of the second declaration, the Declaration on Kosovo as an independent entity?

[Bucar] Both declarations, simultaneously impinging on the tissue called the Yugoslav constitutional system, will certainly ensure a quicker restructuring of the present federation into something more suitable.

[Vatovec] How would you compare Yeltsin's move, proclaiming the primacy of the Russian normative acts over the Soviet ones, with the Slovene Assembly decision?

[Bucar] If we take Yeltsin's move as a move by a representative of the state that has the strongest political influence in the USSR, I would assess the step for which Slovenia so resolutely decided as essentially more important. It is true, however, that the two declarations or moves have no international implications or direct international consequences. For the time being, both Yugoslavia and the USSR exist as internationally recognized states.

Jovic Warns Kucan on Slovene Government Program

AU2507212190 Ljubljana NEODVISNI DNEVNIK in Slovene 19 Jul 90 p 4

["Text" of undated letter from Borisav Jovic, president of the SFRY Presidency, to Milan Kucan, president of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia: "To the President of the Presidency of the Republic of Slovenia"]

[Text] The SFRY Presidency at its session on 17 July 1990, among other things, familiarized itself with the paper entitled Program Guidelines of the Executive Council of the Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia, which was submitted to the Assembly of Slovenia for adoption. In exchanging views on this paper, the Presidency noted that the Program Guidelines contain proposals and views whose adoption by the Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia would be contrary to the provisions of the SFRY Constitution and federal laws. The adoption of specific legal acts in some fields, especially in the field of people's defense, would equally be contrary to these provisions.

Proceeding from the stances expressed in the SFRY Assembly, the SFRY Presidency again stresses its resolute position that it will protect constitutionality and legality on the entire territory of the SFRY with all the means at its disposal. If the Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia were to adopt such documents, very grave consequences would certainly ensue. The SFRY Presidency therefore suggests that the Assembly of Slovenia do its best not to adopt these Program Guidelines and not to adopt any measures for their realization, because otherwise it would assume all the responsibility for the consequences that such decisions may cause.

We draw attention to the fact that all the aims and wishes of the Slovene people and the Republic of Slovenia can be realized in a legal way and by respecting the constitutional and legal procedure, which the SFRY Presidency presented to the SFRY Assembly on 28 May this year.

Please inform the President of the Assembly of the Republic of Slovenia of these views.
Borisav Jovic, president.

Slovenia's Peterle Meets With Styrian Governor

AU2507124690 Vienna DER STANDARD in German 25 Jul 90 p 3

[Ernst Sittinger report: "Peterle: Slovenia Wants Sovereignty"]

[Excerpts] Graz—Slovene Premier Lojze Peterle, who is currently on a several-day-long visit to Styria, made positive statements on Tuesday [24 July] about the process of detente in Yugoslavia. During recent talks with State President Borisav Jovic in Ljubljana, he met with a great deal of understanding, Peterle pointed out.

The meeting between him and Jovic focused mainly on the maintenance of Yugoslavia's state unity, Peterle stressed. Slovenia is in favor of the adoption of democratic constitutions by all constituent republics and supports subsequent talks about the form of future cooperation. These goals were clearly outlined during the meeting with Jovic, Peterle stated. Slovenia is striving for "sovereignty, but not for independence." Complete secession would be the "last step."

Referring to possible close cooperation with Croatia, Peterle pointed out that this will depend on the behavior of the other republics. "If they consider the process of restructuring to be too fast, the more advanced republics should take the lead." [passage omitted]

At a joint news conference with Styrian Governor Josef Krainer, Peterle also mentioned the Krsko power plant, which is to be closed down in 1995. There will be no changes concerning the timetable. A schedule for alternative energy sources is currently being negotiated with Austria. Governor Krainer stated that the supply of energy to the CSFR might become a model case for talks with Slovenia. However, Krsko is "by no means only an Austrian problem." [passage omitted]

Federal Chamber Approves Party Organization Bill

LD2507130190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1123 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—Political parties will be allowed to be set up across all of Yugoslavia, with the exception of those that continue the activity of parties defeated during World War II. This possibility is provided for by the law on the citizens associating into associations and social and political (?organizations, which was) adopted by a majority vote during today's session of the Federal Chamber of the Yugoslav Assembly.

Political parties of a general Yugoslav character can be set up by 100 citizens, at a minimum. They will not be able to finance their work with money obtained abroad.

Chamber Debates Constitutional Amendments

LD2507124190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 0805 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—A debate on proposed amendments to the SFRY constitution is underway in the SFRY Assembly's Federal Chamber despite the Slovene delegates insistence that the final decision be postponed in view of the fact that their republic's assembly is yet to state its view on the draft document.

The Federal Chamber delegates are expected today to adopt the proposed amendments and to submit them to the assemblies of the republics and provinces for harmonization.

Postpones Adoption

LD2507202690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1900 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—The SFRY Assembly Federal Chamber today postponed the adoption of the draft amendments to the SFRY Constitution since the Slovene Assembly has still not given its view on this, and also since several new amendments were presented which the constitutional commission is called on to consider. The Chamber will, as agreed, meet again on 8 August.

The debate on the Slovene declaration of sovereignty was also removed from the agenda because the documents had not been translated into the languages of the nations and nationalities. The relevant services were called on to take responsibility for this omission.

The major part of today's session was taken up in debating the situation in Kosovo following the decision of Serbia to dissolve that province's Assembly, but the formal adoption of any conclusions was left for tomorrow.

Presidency Discusses Future Constitutional Order

LD2507202390 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1639 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—At the session of the SFRY Presidency, with President Borisav Jovic in the chair, delegates examined a report on the talks between the SFRY Presidency and the republican and provincial leaderships concerning the future constitutional system in Yugoslavia, as well as further activities, in order to find a solution for open and controversial issues. The session was attended by the presidents and representatives of the republics and provinces.

As reported, the talks between the SFRY Presidency and the republican and provincial leaderships were assessed as very beneficial, making it possible for the Presidency to have insight into the stands, views, and proposals of the republican and provincial leaderships concerning the future constitutional system in Yugoslavia. The Presidency noted that direct meetings and talks between the republican leaderships, which it had also recommended at the beginning of its initiative, also contributed to this.

The Presidency also noted that an interest in coexistence in a future Yugoslavia was demonstrated in all the talks. However, different views had been expressed concerning the volume of joint functions in a Yugoslav state community, especially in view of its organization and the method of implementing these functions. The talks between the SFRY Presidency and the republican and provincial leaderships, as well as the ones between the leaderships themselves, created a favorable climate for finding a universal solution for the future democratic system and the prosperity of the Yugoslav community.

As before, further activities will proceed from the principle that all nations in Yugoslavia are sovereign and that solutions which are not in keeping with their freely expressed will and interests will not and cannot be imposed on them. However, it is necessary to respect the existing Constitution of the SFRY and the federal laws until a new agreement on the future constitutional system, since this is an essential condition for preventing more serious conflicts.

The decision was taken all the same to carry out an expert analysis, as soon as possible, of the proposals for the realization of the proposals made during the talks thus far, and also that the SFRY Presidency should organize further cooperation between the responsible bodies of the federation, republics, and provinces as well as talks aimed at eliminating a more clearly defining possible differences in view. After this the Presidency will brief the SFRY Assembly on a possible concept of the future Yugoslav system.

Views were also exchanged on the draft initiative for passing a law on the right to self-orientation, including the right to secession and the decision was reached to continue work in this respect.

The SFRY Presidency also examined the demand of the Slovene Assembly that by 30 July this year the entire September generation of recruits from Slovenia should perform its military service in the Fifth Army District, of which at least 50 percent on the territory of Slovenia, and that by the end of 1990 conditions be created for 95 percent of recruits from this republic to do their military service on the territory of this republic. In the event these conditions are not met, Slovenia, it is stressed in this demand, would not send its recruits to do their military service. If the conditions are not yet met by the time new recruits are drafted the Republic of Slovenia would organize and carry out its own military training of recruits and cease to contribute to the federal budget.

The Presidency assessed such stands of the Slovene Republic to be completely contrary to the SFRY Constitution and the federal laws and that such issues could not be solved by ultimatums.

The SFRY Presidency, being the highest authority leading and commanding the Armed Forces of the SFRY, gave the order to the federal organs that they should, within their jurisdiction, take necessary measures and ensure that both the SFRY Constitution and the federal laws were strictly adhered to in the field of national defense.

Proposal Made To Ban U.S. Congressman Lantos

LD2507155190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1250 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpts] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—The Serb Executive council today discussed the draft constitution of the Socialist Republic of Serbia. It has suggested that the republican Assembly adopt it during its session tomorrow and throw it open to public debate. The Council believes that the proposed text of the draft constitution—in the way it settles all essential issues of the state and social system in Serbia and the freedoms and rights of the citizens—represents a rational legal act which is in keeping with the requirements of present-day constitutional theory and practice applied in the world. [passage omitted]

The Executive Council today endorsed the initiative of Batric Jovanovic, a delegate in the Chamber of Municipalities of the Serb Assembly, whereby the Assembly will make it incumbent on its delegates in the Federal Chamber of the SFRY Assembly to seek a ban on the entry into our country of U.S. Congressman Tom Lantos because of his activity on behalf of Albanian separatism. If the Serb Assembly also endorses this initiative, the Assembly should ask the Serb republican secretariat of internal affairs to forward it to the Federal Secretariat of Internal Affairs, which has the power of making a final decision on these issues. [passage omitted]

'Majority' Said To Support Markovic Government

LD2507152890 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1439 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—An overwhelming majority of Yugoslavs, or 79 percent, have great confidence in the federal government and Prime Minister Ante Markovic and the measures of social and economic reforms they have introduced, as a first country-wide poll, conducted by a consortium of six institutes for the federal government, has shown.

According to the poll, which has covered 5,000 pollees, the federal government and its programme enjoy unquestioned support in some of the six Yugoslav republics and two provinces, as Federal Secretary for Information Darko Martin told a news conference today. He said that, for instance, as many as 93 percent of the polled in the Republic of Bosnia-hercegovina lent support to the federal government. In Macedonia and Vojvodina, the percentage stood at 89 percent, in Croatia at 83, Serbia, not including the provinces, at 81, Slovenia at 59 and Kosovo at 42 percent.

An absolute majority of pollees, or 66 percent, said they were convinced that the federal government reforms were the right way for resolving the crisis in the country. Only seven percent did not share that view.

The poll showed that 15 percent of Yugoslavs believe that it will be possible to overcome the years-long political and economic crisis in the country in one to two years. 31 percent said they thought it would take at least until the middle of the decade, and 19 percent by the end of the century. One percent of the pollees said they felt the crisis had already been overcome.

When asked how would they grade the Markovic team, 35 percent of the pollees gave it the highest mark—five, and only eight percent the lowest marks—two and one. It is interesting that 14 percent of those polled said they felt the federal government deserved to be graded with five plus.

Asked about what they though Yugoslaiva would look like in the future, 24 percent of the pollees said they believed it would remain a federation, whereas 21 percent said they were in favour of a confederation, and 21 percent were undecided. A federation was the choice of the largest number of pollees in the Republics of Montenegro (44 percent) and Macedonia (43 percent), whereas a confederative solution received the strongest support in the Republics of Slovenia (44 percent) and Croatia (35 percent).

The poll showed that 58 percent of Yugoslavs feel that the federal government should be given broader constitutional powers, whereas 21 percent said they felt the federal government had enough powers as it was.

Foreign Debt Decreases; Capital Reserves Improve

LD2507175290 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1548 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia's foreign debt has been reduced from 21 billion dollars in 1987 to 16.5 billion dollars. 15.9 billion dollars of the debt are long-term and medium-term debts while short-term debts account for 460 million dollars. Yugoslavia appropriates 29 percent of its convertible foreign exchange earnings for debt servicing. At the same time, Yugoslavia's claims from other countries stand at five billion dollars.

The price of Yugoslavia's debt on the secondary market has risen by around 20 percent. Last year, the Yugoslav debt was sold at a discount of 55 to 56 percent, while it has now dropped to 35-37 percent. Ante Markovic and his government have promised to resolve the country's debt problem by 1994, i.e. by the end of the term in office. Yugoslavia is now treated by the International Monetary Fund as a moderately indebted country.

At the same time, the country's solvency measured in terms of its foreign exchange reserves continues to be extremely favourable. The foreign exchange reserves, according to the Federal Bureau of Statistics, exceeded 9 billion dollars on July 17, which means they have risen by 2.9 billion dollars as compared to the end of last year, while the stable rate of exchange of the dinar in terms of the West German deutsche mark favours a transition to full international convertibility.

Foreign Trade Surplus Recorded; Inflation Falls

LD2507180990 Belgrade TANJUG in English
1556 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—Yugoslavia recorded its first trade surplus, one of 170 million dollars, in July this year, as Yugoslav Secretary for Foreign Economic Relations Franc Horvat told a news conference here today.

In the period from January 1 to July 23 of this year, the overall value of the Yugoslav exports stood at eight billion 352 million dollars, or was 20.3 percent higher than in the same period last year. At the same time, the value of the imports amounted to nine billion 690 million dollars.

In the January 1-July 23 period, Yugoslavia's trade deficit was one billion 338 million dollars lower than for the same period of 1989.

Horvat said that the Yugoslav exports rose nine percent in real terms and imports 23 percent in the first half of the year. The deliveries to the hard-currency area accounted for 61 percent of the total exports. He also specified that the deliveries in more highly processed products accounted for as much as 70 percent of the total exports.

The Yugoslav exports are expected further to increase in the coming months, but at a somewhat more moderate rate. The positive results achieved to date and the optimistic forecasts are said to be a result of the changes introduced in the country's economic system and economic policy, of the growing entrepreneurship, and low inflation. The monthly inflation rate for December last year had stood at 64.3 percent. It steadily dropped in the first half of this year and was down to somewhere around zero in the month of June.

The influx of foreign capital into Yugoslavia continues. Since the beginning of this year until July 20, a total of 1,960 contracts were signed on the founding of 1,364 mixed firms and 325 foreign firms. 271 of the signed contracts regulate foreign investments in Yugoslav firms. On the basis of the signed contracts, the foreign capital investments will amount to a total of one billion dollars, as specified at today's news conference in Belgrade today.

'Chameleonic Change' in Communist Leader Viewed

AU2607110390 Skopje NOVA MAKEDONIJA in Macedonian 21 Jul 90 p 2

["Lj. P."-signed commentary: "Chameleonic Change"]

[Text] Petar Skundric, the man who vociferously advocated unity in the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, and sharply criticized the disintegration of Yugoslavia and all those who were "disturbing" its unity, entered the history of Yugoslavia's socialist path on two occasions. Once as the last secretary of the still ruling communist organization of Yugoslavia (although only as an unofficial acting secretary), and the second time as the general secretary of the newly founded Socialist Party of Serbia.

Let us recall that at the time when the Yugoslav communist organization was dissolving, and some of its parts were breaking away and not turning up at the sessions announced by its top organ, Petar Skundric, as acting secretary of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, presented himself to the public as the most loyal guardian of the League of Communists, its unity, old party norms, the then valid party statute, communist traditionalism, vangardism, and democratic centralism; vehemently fighting for the preservation of the old name of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia. This same Petar Skundric has abandoned all his beliefs, and is now the second man (after Slobodan Milosevic) in a new party which has a new program and new ideological, statutory, and other orientations.

The radical break by Skundric and some other members of the top leadership of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia with the basic communist elements and communist ideals represents a real flip-flop. This kind of turnabout has not so far been made by any other part of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia, and not even by those whom Skundric accused of betraying communist ideals. In fact this is a kind of hypocrisy on Skundric's part; not toward communist ideals, because nowadays these are hardly acceptable on the political scene in Yugoslavia, but toward those who believed in him, particularly those in the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia who were with him and supported all his ideas.

Today many members are leaving the League of Communists, and this is the most natural process possible as part of, among other things, the emergence of a multiparty system. These people will perhaps become members of other parties, and the League of Communists will be completely stripped bare. This chameleonic change by the former second man in the Yugoslav communist organization is indeed unexpected, regardless of the fact that this may involve nothing but a struggle for power.

Army's LCY Organization Meets in Belgrade

LD2507141190 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1148 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Belgrade, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—A session was held in the Yugoslav People's Army [YPA] Club in Belgrade today of the Committee of the League of Communists of Yugoslavia [LCY] organization in the YPA. The committee is reported to have discussed an initiative of the committee for the preparation of the congress of the LCY's democratic and program renewal which refers to setting up of the United Socialist Democratic Party and to the program platform of the alliance (association) of Yugoslavia's left-wing political parties - the Yugoslav Left Alliance.

Following an extensive debate the committee came to the conclusion that all submitted options were acceptable and that representatives of the LCY organization in the YPA would make constructive contributions to the future work of the committee for the preparation of the congress of the LCY's democratic and program renewal.

Bulatovic Favors 'Independent' Montenegrin LC

AU2607124790 Belgrade POLITIKA in Serbo-Croatian 25 Jul 90 p 12

["V.V."-signed report: "Montenegrin LC Remains Independent"]

[Text] Rozaje, 24 Jul—As part of his tour of the larger local community centers in Montenegro, Momir Bulatovic, president of the Presidium of the Central Committee of the League of Communists of Montenegro, last night visited Bisevo, the largest local community in the Rozaje commune. Bulatovic said, among other things, that the League of Communists of Montenegro will not unite with any left-oriented party in the republic, because the Socialist Alliance of Working People and the League of Socialist Youth had previously rejected cooperation with the League of Communists of Montenegro. Answering numerous questions concerning political events in the republic, especially the activities of some parties and alliances, Bulatovic said that he did not like the programs of the Liberal Alliance and the People's Party of Montenegro, and that the League of Communists did not want to fight in any way with any party.

At the end of the visit, the Communists and citizens of Bisevo adopted a joint resolution that the League of Communists of Montenegro should not change its name, and that the League of Communists must become a united and modern party capable of acting effectively and comprehensively under new, complex conditions.

Assembly President Leaves LC

LD2507143690 Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1406 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Titograd, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—Dr. Dragan Radonjic, president of the Montenegrin Assembly, today resigned from this republic's League of Communists [LC] membership.

Explaining his decision to leave the ranks of the party which had delegated him to the republican parliament, Radonjic mentioned the groundless nature of the accusations leveled against him by the LC leadership concerning alleged procrastinations over the forthcoming Assembly elections, and also his view that the democratic transformation of the party is moving too slowly.

Left-Wing Coalition Favored

LD2507175690 Belgradle TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian 1421 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Excerpt] Titograd, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—During its session today the Montenegro League of Communists Central Committee Presidium endorsed the initiative for a left-wing coalition in this republic. The initiative was put forward in a declaration issued by the Presidium of the republican Socialist Alliance of Working People conference.

A statement issued after the session stresses that the Presidium noted with pleasure that the initiative was along the line of political stands and commitments which the League of Communists of Montenegro laid down in the elements of its electoral platform and that the program's content, as laid out in the declaration, is in keeping with the League of Communists political objectives operating at the level of its agreed principled commitments. [passage omitted]

Slovene TU's Oppose Scheduled General Strike

LD2507162190 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1508 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Ljubljana, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—The Confederation of Independent Trade Unions of the Yugoslav Republic of Slovenia are categorically opposed to the general strike scheduled for the first half of September by the republic's free trade unions to protest low pay, especially those of metal industry workers.

The independent trade unions feel that the scheduled general strike is a "planned attempt to destabilize the economic system and the new Slovene authorities," and that it is linked to "plans in Belgrade" and the recent forming for a communist shadow cabinet.

The positions of the independent trade unions of the Slovene Assembly Franc Bucar, who agreed that the scheduled general strike was not a good move and that it in a way showed that its organizers had political and not economic objectives in mind.

Formation of 'Party of Socialists' Announced

LD2507214290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2028 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Titograd, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—In the capital of Yugoslavia's Republic of Montenegro, Titograd, another party was presented today. The Party of Socialists, as it has been announced at a press conference by members of the initiative committee, will act from the positions of a social movement and on the principles of economic and political freedom, social justice, solidarity and mutuality.

A press conference was also held in Titograd today by the leaders of the Montenegrin social-democratic party which declared themselves in favour of the state sovereignty of Montenegro within Yugoslavia and in favour of setting up non-violent, non-totalitarian and democratic relations in society.

Another news, which added to the liveliness of the Montenegrin political stage, was the announcement that President of the Montenegrin Parliament Dragan Radonjic marched out of the Communist Party of Montenegro. He formally declared himself a non-party and independent candidate for the term in office he is currently holding.

In his explanation for quitting the party which provided him with a seat in the Montenegrin Assembly, Radonjic said that in relation to the communists he objected to a slow pace of democratization of internal relations which caused internal splits, collapse and sudden decline in the number of party members.

'Party of Yugoslavs' in Macedonia Registers

LD2507174590 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1611 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Skopje, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—The Party of Yugoslavs in the Republic of Macedonia was officially registered in the republican capital of Skopje today, as part of the process of the party's constituting on all of the territory of Yugoslavia.

The party was earlier registered in the republics of Croatia, Serbia and Bosnia-Herzegovina and is estimated already to have around a half million members.

The Party of Yugoslavs in Macedonia today issued a statement in which it rejected as absolutely unacceptable the demands of individual parties in Macedonia for the founding of a national news agency in the republic. Macedonia, as set out in the statement, already has its national news agency, the TANJUG office for Macedonia.

The founding of a new national news agency of Macedonia would annul all the hitherto efforts and results in affirming Macedonia and the Macedonia nation at the Yugoslav level, the statement released by the Party of Yugoslavs in the Republic of Macedonia states. [Belgrade TANJUG Domestic Service in Serbo-Croatian at 1520 GMT on 25 July transmits an item on the official registration of the Party of Yugoslavs in Macedonia. The party name is given as: Stranka Jugoslovena u Makedoniji]

Vojvodina Criticizes Federal Government on Banks

LD2507200290 Belgrade TANJUG in English 1836 GMT 25 Jul 90

[Text] Novi Sad, 25 Jul (TANJUG)—The Government of the Province of Vojvodina, a part of the Republic of Serbia, today criticized the federal government for not adopting a program for the financial rehabilitation of banks and large enterprises.

The government was criticized for not having responded to crucial questions on the development of the country's economy and for not having found an optimum way for spending foreign exchange reserves.

The Vojvodina Government requested that decisions on spending foreign exchange from the state treasury in future be made by businessmen in order to avoid their "unjustified" use such as, for example, the Yugoslav Government's recent decision to import 300,000 tonnes of flour despite full silos.

In an open talk on Skopje television last night, Yugoslav Prime Minister Ante Markovic admitted that the silos were full but that there was "no logic in having a good harvest and high prices." He justified the decision to import flour with the wish to eliminate monopolies.